

MAY 16 1958



# BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

ALGONQUIN 5-5000

*From: Juneau, mem'l Ch*

## Action Regarding 1958 Evangelistic Mission

Yukon Presbytery voted to have another Evangelistic Mission with missionaries from the States for October 19th to 26th, 1958, and an exchange of pulpits among the churches of the Presbytery during January or February, 1959. The plan for October would include some changes such as having only one Missioner for the combined congregations in each location such as, Anchorage, Palmer - Wasilla, and Fairbanks.

Alaska Presbytery voted for churches which desired to participate in October to write to me and make arrangements for a visiting Missioner with the understanding that the smaller villages would not participate in October, but would arrange an exchange of pulpits within the Presbytery, for Evangelistic meetings later.

These actions leave the whole situation in an uncertain state. It would appear that only ten to twelve Missioners might be needed or desired. In order to clear this, it is necessary for each one of you who desires to have a Missioner, <sup>to</sup> write me by the end of May saying whether you want some one and give us a suggestion, if you have one, of who the Missioner should be. In past years, we have begun at the time of General Assembly to contact men about going. If requests come any later than the end of May, we will lose this opportunity of personal contacts in selecting the Missioners. If we have twelve to fifteen requests, it will be worth the effort of setting up the plan. If we have only six or eight requests, we shall not attempt it. Let each of you clear with your officers at once and notify me before the end of May whether you want a Missioner, and offer a suggestion of name if you have one.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Earl Jackman*  
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of work in Alaska

JEJ:EW  
5/19/58

*1958  
11 May*

*Dear Dr. Jackman:*

*We are interested in having a speaker  
for 19-26 Oct - 1958*

*Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Juneau, Alaska  
W. Saboleff*

SPECIAL NOTE FOR 1958 ALASKA PREACHING MISSION

A large number of the officers in most of our missions and churches in Alaska have a strong feeling that our ministers should not smoke. We usually get the request that we send ministers for temporary and permanent service who do not use tobacco.

It is not a primary concern of the administrator of the Alaska work whether a fellow-minister does or does not smoke, but experience has taught that there is a possibility of a stronger response to the message if the messenger does not use tobacco. This is a simple statement of fact and must be considered by everyone who shares in the Preaching Mission.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:EW  
June 1958



The Fourth Evangelistic Mission to Alaska  
October 19 to 26, 1958

PAPER A  
A Supplement Attached

Last October twenty-five Presbyterian ministers were released from their fall work and their churches paid their round-trip travel to participate in the third eight-day Evangelistic Mission to the churches in Alaska. This was a new experience for the visiting ministers and a profitable program for the churches in the North. The spiritual life of the local churches in Alaska was deepened and strengthened. The Alaska ministers were greatly encouraged and helped by the movement. Twenty-five ministers from the States came back to their tasks with a new sense of fellowship and appreciation for the outreach of their church. Their churches in turn have received from them a new spiritual quickening in sensing the mission of the Church.

In April, both Presbyteries in Alaska voted unanimously to request another such Mission, October 19 to 26, 1958. The Department of Work in Alaska has been asked to invite the visiting ministers, and make the arrangements. The Division of Evangelism has been asked to prepare the visitors, and guide the ministers and churches in Alaska in making full preparation so that the maximum results may be attained while and after the visitors are there.

The plan is to have the visiting ministers meet in the Stewart Hotel of Seattle early afternoon, October 16. They will review plans for the mission, get acquainted, and be briefed on Alaska and what we hope to accomplish. The group will fly north on Friday the 17th. Each will go to his assigned field of service for eight days. This will allow time to get to and get acquainted with the community and the people before services start on Sunday. Usually there will be two services on each Sunday and a service each evening during the week. The mornings will be reserved for study the afternoon for calling, and the evenings for services. Sessions for training of laymen to do evangelistic visiting will be held. There will be as many speaking engagements in schools, service clubs (where they exist), and other groups as can be arranged. A few congregations will have several hundred in attendance; the majority less than one hundred. Some congregations are Native, White, and/or Inter-racial. Most of the preaching will be in English. We want to reach as many people as possible. Following the services, on October 27 through 30, the group will spend three additional days completing the "circle trip" (Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks) visiting other places and missions to get the broader picture of the program of the Church in Alaska. The whole group will return to Seattle on the evening of Thursday, October 30. We would like to have twenty-two ministers from different parts of the country from October 16 to 30.

Churches in Alaska have been asked to suggest particular ministers whom they would like to be invited. If they have no choice, we are sending invitations in their behalf. We want ministers who have an evangelistic message in simple language, who are interested in the program of evangelism in the Church, and/or those whose churches may be supporting a missionary in Alaska. Our purpose now is to find the ministers and churches who can and will share in this spiritual mission to Alaska, October 19 to 26. If the minister can and will go, we will write to his Session asking the church to send him with his round-trip transportation provided by his Church. The cost will be travel from home to Seattle plus ~~\$250~~ for the "circle trip", including southeastern and Interior Alaska as far as Fairbanks. We shall ask the local churches in Alaska to provide the cost of entertainment during the eight days, local publicity, printed materials, and a voluntary contribution to a general travel pool to reach out to places beyond the "circle route". This promises to be a great spiritual experience - for Alaska, the participating ministers, and their churches at home. We ask your support and prayers.

JEJ:EW  
6/58

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska  
Board of National Missions



BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

and

THE BOARD OF AMERICAN MISSIONS  
OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF NORTH AMERICA

# PRESBYTERIAN NATIONAL MISSIONS

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

ALGONQUIN 5-5000

Evangelistic Mission to Alaska  
October 16 to 30, 1958

Assigned to:

The Rev. Jay Luman Bush	Kenmore Presbyterian Church 2 East Hazeltine Avenue Kenmore 17, New York	Wrangell
The Rev. Robert L. Caldwell	The United Presbyterian Church 1244 East Second Street Whittier, California	Ketchikan
The Rev. James L. Cottrell	Southminster United Presbyterian 1120 East 34th Street (Church Tulsa 5, Oklahoma	Skagway
The Rev. Bruce W. Evans	The Presbyterian Church 37 Main Street Springfield, New Jersey	Sitka
The Rev. Floyd W. Ewalt (Pastor, Presbyterian Ch.)	522 Oakmoor Avenue Bay Village, Ohio	Anchorage, Hillcrest
The Rev. Lawrence E. Fisher	First Presbyterian Church 25-31 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, California	Anchorage, First and Faith Spenard, Woodland Park
The Rev. W. Russell Gilmore	First Presbyterian Church 110 So. Marietta Street St. Clairsville, Ohio	Metlakatla
The Rev. Charles Hoffmeister	Central Presbyterian Church 20th and L Streets Merced, California	Barrow
The Rev. James R. Holsey	Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Market Street Church Snow Hill, Maryland	Auke Bay
The Rev. John G. Marvin	First Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Oak and Boliver Streets Denton, Texas	Haines

and

# PRESBYTERIAN NATIONAL MISSIONS

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

ALGONQUIN 5-5000

Page 2

Evangelistic Mission to Alaska

October 16 to 30, 1958

Assigned to:

The Rev. Harry E. Mercer	Northside Presbyterian Church 923 Mississippi Avenue Chattanooga 5, Tennessee	Juneau, Memorial
The Rev. Robert A. Mills	Wedgewood Presbyterian Church 8008 - 35 Avenue, N. E. Seattle 15, Washington	Petersburg
The Rev. William A. Smith	First Presbyterian Church Liberty Street Meadville, Pennsylvania	Hydaburg
The Rev. Raymond M. Touvell	Valley Presbyterian Church Church Street at Main Imperial, Pennsylvania	Craig and Klawock
The Rev. William Johnston Wiseman (Pastor, White Plains Presbyterian Church)	13 Littlejohn Place White Plains, N.Y.	Fairbanks and College

Mission organized and conducted by:

The Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska  
156 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. 10, N.Y.  
and the

Division of Evangelism

The Rev. Donald G. Lester, Secretary of Division  
The Rev. Dean H. Lewis, Secretary of Western Area

JEJ:FK  
9/1958



OCT 31 1958

aboard  UNITED AIR LINES

10/28/58

Dear Earl,

This happens to be the only piece of stationery I have. I type the enclosed report yesterday in Barrow. Left this morning and am on my way south. I did not know about the possibility of flight from Fairbanks to Juneau and so had arranged to stay overnight in Anchorage with friends and had no way to contact them in time. Therefore I'm sticking to my original itinerary.

*what  
of  
main* In regard to the eggs, they cost me \$27.50 excess baggage. Freight from Fairbanks would have been cheaper but there was nothing I could do. Vic Alfsen said I should go ahead and pay it. I'll appreciate your reimbursing me. The slip is enclosed.

I should have cleared with the Colonel in Anchorage on the way up because they would not let me into the electronics portion of the Dew line sight without security clearance, which I had from Merced, California.

all in all, I thoroughly enjoyed my

experiences in Barrow and believe God  
blessed the ministry. I'm sure my church  
in Merced will be challenged by it.

Thanks for all you did and  
may God continually bless you.

Your friend,

Charles

Geo. (Hoffmeister)



October 27, 1958

OCT 31 1958

FOURTH EVANGELISTIC MISSION  
TO ALASKA  
MISSION TO BARROW

The Fourth Evangelistic Mission to Barrow came to a close last night, but it is my earnest prayer that this is but the beginning of greater blessing here in this church and village.

I believe the mission has been well planned and well conducted by the New York office. The fellowship with other men in Seattle before we left for Alaska was good, and the instruction and information was very helpful. Here in Barrow there was real expectation on the part of the people and I'm sure God's blessing rested upon the mission, not because of me, but because of the faithful prayers of the people. We had a near capacity crowd every night and an excellent response on the part of the people both in interest and in actual response to the invitation, for during the week nearly fifty people came forward for rededication or for initial commitment to Christ.

The Christian dedication of these eskimo people is an evidence of God's blessing upon the ministry through the 68 years since the work was begun. The commitment of the people and the impact of this church upon the village puts to shame most of our churches in the states. Having the privilege of ministering here has been a great blessing to me, and I'm sure will be to my future service. I certainly would urge the continuation of these missions to Alaska each year.

In addition to what was expected of me, I have done two things that I believe have proven to be worth while, and might be worth consideration in the future. I brought with me colored slides of my trip to Mexico and Guatemala showing various aspects of the life of the people and of our Presbyterian mission work there. I showed slides each night, and it created additional interest as well as to lay before them the challenge of their responsibility to send the Gospel to other people. Then also I felt it would be helpful to the people here and to my people in Merced, California if correspondence back and forth could be encouraged. I asked these who would like to write to someone in my church to give me their names on a slip of paper indicating their age grouping, and in the case of young people, their grade in school. I am now on the spot with my people because 105 gave me their names. I pray that there will be a tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

*Future!* ( For future missions I believe it would be very helpful if a missionary could correspond with the missionaries who have been at the church to which he is going. He would receive help that even the local missionary cannot give him as to what to anticipate.

*Future work* For the future of the work here, I would urge the soon building of better quarters for the missionary pastor, preferably a building with three apartments for the missionary pastor, lay preacher, and student assistant, plus a couple of guest rooms. I would also urge every possible encouragement to eskimo young people to complete their education for church vocations.

One final word, your missionary pastor and his wife have been very gracious in their hospitality and helpful in every way.

With gratitude, your missionary to Barrow,

*Charles Hoffmeister*



1958 Preaching Mission  
First Presbyterian Church  
25.31 EAST ANAPAMU STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
WOODLAND 5-4524

NOV 6 1958

LAWRENCE E. FISHER, D.D.  
W. FREDERICK WILLS, D.D.  
MINISTERS

November 3, 1958

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Earl:

Floyd Ewalt and I were very fortunate being able to keep our schedule coming out of Ketchikan. Up until thirty minutes before plane departure we were quite uncertain about the weather and our connecting trip on the goose. I understand several of the boys were stranded in Sitka for at least twenty-four hours on the way out. Even so, I want to thank you for assigning me to Anchorage and suggesting that Floyd Ewalt be my travelling partner. He is an excellent minister and I felt that we complimented each other very well. The union services which we did together with the young people and the women were perhaps as affective as any of our meetings. I also came away with the opinion that the best four meetings were perhaps the meetings with the elders, the young people, the women, and the Sunday night popular meeting. In three of these Floyd participated.

There are several impressions that I bring back with me to Santa Barbara. I am sharing with my congregation the per capita giving of Mick Campbell's church which is \$160 as against our 50+. The lessons of humility and Christian statesmanship on the part of several of the men and personalities in your Alaskan field will make indelible marks on my ministry.

My impressions and they are very casual in some instances as our time at Fairbanks and Juneau was so short, Floyd and I were snowed in at Sitka for an extra twenty-four hours, or should I say soaked in, were that

NOV 6 1958

Dr. J. Earl Jackman

November 3, 1958

outstanding pieces of work are being done at College Church in Fairbanks, at Faith Church in Anchorage, at the Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka. The spiritual willingness of all of the men I met is immediately apparent whereas the question of leadership and statesmanship in some instances might be more or less in a given situation. However, any estimate of mine is entirely too rapid and too hastily drawn up to be of any permanent value so far as your administrative office is concerned.

I am delighted indeed to report an enthusiastic and unanimous following of your leadership in Alaska. I also noted at the Alaska Chamber of Commerce meeting Saturday evening that Roland Armstrong was present and that he had a wide knowledge of Alaska personalities and is deeply respected in all the activities of the 49th State.

The greatest immediate impact of the Alaskan pilgrimage was the effect on the minister of the First Church of Santa Barbara. I know that this will have a lasting and I trust a telling mark on my ministry.

The opportunity of being with you from time to time during the ten days was, of course, one of the highlights. May God's richest and continuing blessing accompany your every ambition for the 49th State. I am

Gratefully yours

*Larry*

LEF:jg



1958 Alaskan Preaching Mission  
to Anchorage area  
from Everett-Tishler

NOV 14  
K.

# First Presbyterian Church

25-31 EAST ANAPAMU STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
WOODLAND 5-4524

LAWRENCE E. FISHER, D.D.  
W. FREDERICK WILLS, D.D.  
MINISTERS

TO MEMBERS OF THE 1958 ALASKAN PREACHING MISSION:

On our return to Seattle, Floyd Ewalt, one of the Anchorage Twins, suggested that we share our data and impressions of the trip with the entire team. Consequently Santa Barbara reports with the sincere desire that some of these statistics and facts may be helpful in your particular assignment in building the Kingdom.

It was a privilege to meet some of you for the first time and to become intimately acquainted with the fine work done by Earl Jackman and his excellent team in Alaska. I know you join with the Anchorage Twins in the sincere prayer that our contribution to the Alaska Churches may have a continuing positive influence. I certainly am humbled by the experience and grateful for the privilege given me in participating in this effort. May God's richest blessing rest on your ministry.

Probably the highlight of my trip was a hospital call made in Anchorage on Jimmy Otiuhok. Jimmy was recovering from a stay in the government hospital. Mick Campbell took Floyd Ewalt and me to his bedside. Here we found a Presbyterian Elder, 82 years of age, converted at the age of 14. In very good English he told us of the persecution which was his in the community at Gamble, not very far from Siberia. The whole native village believed in worshipping the whale and they had their native sacrifices each year looking toward good hunting.

In spite of severe persecution he still got his whale. He did not make the sacrifice in February and he did not make the summer thank offering to the whale gods. There were 142 in the Presbyterian Church in Gamble. There are now 325. Mick Campbell has been one of the ministers there. The church was organized in 1932. At one time the membership was down to 7 or 8, and then a prayer group was organized. They began praying specifically for families and individuals and had 100 baptized shortly thereafter as the church began to grow.

After listening to some of this story and seeing the presence of the Holy Spirit on this man's countenance, Mick suggested that we have prayer. Jimmy slipped into his native dialect and I confess that I had my eyes open watching him. I had never seen such a transformed face in my life. I do not know what he said but I did know to Whom he prayed and Who dwelt in his heart. Following his elegant prayer, each one of us contributed our short prayers in English. This is an unforgettable moment in my life. I am sharing this story with my congregation on November 16, our Pledge Sunday, and using the impact of Jimmy's life on mine.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Communicant Membership - 134. Of this number 30 are "outside" and half of them are out of contact completely. Of the 104 living in Anchorage 14 must be considered as not active at all.

Attendance and Enrollment. Average per Sunday in September 1958 at Church was 127 and at Sunday School it was 121. Enrollment as of October 1 in Sunday School was 141 with a 170 enrollment high last April.

Financial

Budget for 1958 was \$16,700

Pledged towards this budget was \$10,955

Total Receipts for 3/4's of the year was \$10,073

Receipts categorized: Pledges paid \$7,600

Loose offerings \$1,060

Youth Budget \$350.00

Other Sunday School \$370.00

Several other miscellaneous smaller receipts

Total expenditures for 3/4's of the year was \$9,842

Expenditures categorized: Current Expenses \$8,800

Benevolences \$1,000

Families pledging this year - about 45 which includes 6 to 8 non-member families

History

The church was started as a mission by the First Church downtown about 1946. It was officially organized December 15, 1947 and occupied another site for a few years. In 1950 the church site was changed and the present building project begun. This building was virtually completed in 1954 except for some still remaining finishing touches.

The church was under the Board of National Missions until the congregation voted to undertake self-support. This status was attained January 1, 1956 and has continued to the present time. Throughout this period the membership that was actively supporting the church has never exceeded 100 although the rolls have been above that for the last 3 years.

The church is regarded by many in the immediate area as a "center". We have an active Scouting program as the main youth contribution of a social service nature. The building is generally used for elections, health clinic, etc. Thus, the church has the advantage of already being known in location by many who are not a part of the congregation. This is part of the consideration towards future plans of a broadening social service program of the church for the immediate area. According to estimates of the branch postoffice, 40% of the area are Negro. Many other families are native. Many home owners have or are selling and moving out of the area since it has not become part of the city and thus has not had strict building standards.



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This information was given to me by Lowell Campbell, or Mick as we knew him. I used these figures my first Sunday in Santa Barbara following the return from Alaska. Our per capita giving here is about \$100.00. Theirs, this year, seems to be about \$162.00 per member or \$320.00 per family.

LAWRENCE E. FISHER

LEF:jg

November 11, 1958

# First Presbyterian Church

WILLIAM A. SMITH  
AUSTIN V. HUNTER  
MINISTERS

CHRISTINA COLLINS  
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LIBERTY STREET  
Reading, Pennsylvania

PHONE 21-261

NOV 14 1958

H. KENDAL DICK, JR.  
CLERK OF SESSION

C. E. HERSHELMAN  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JACK B. HICKERNELL  
TREASURER

November 12, 1958

*1958 Alaska Preaching Mission  
re Hydaburg  
from Wm A Smith*

Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
Presbyterian National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I want, first of all, to thank you for the privilege of taking part in the Preaching Mission to Alaska. This has certainly been one of the highlights of my ministerial experiences, and I know that it will have its influence upon me as long as I am permitted to serve in the church. I express not alone my personal thanks, but also of the congregation. This has meant a great deal to them, not alone from a sense of pride, but also in that it has created a new interest in this area of the church's work. Returning to preach on Stewardship, it was only natural it should be the target of our benevolence thinking, and several of our discriminating people commented that the sermon was the best ever. This is what happens when we have first hand experience of the work of the church to relate to our people.

In the way of evaluations: I believe that the mission was extremely worthwhile. As you may recall, I was assigned to Hydaburg to work with Paul Moyer. Paul had written that our main responsibilities would be reconsecration and a deepening of ~~our~~ understanding of <sup>the</sup> stewardship of life. The services were well attended. Some nights we had several non-members in attendance, and on other nights there were only the faithful.

The evangelistic index, as far as decisions is concerned, would indicate that nothing happened, but that would be a false impression. First of all, those who attended services were giving, I am sure, special thought to the challenge presented to them and on the basis of the week, Paul will have a point of contact. Also, the mission gave Paul the opportunity to visit in every home in the community, both to introduce me and to invite them to services, and to make a friendly visit. As you well know, friendship is important. I believe that Paul has developed a good rapport with these people. We received a most cordial invitation into almost every home.



NOV 14 1958

Dr. Earl Jackman  
November 12, 1958  
Page Two

Dean Lewis has asked us to comment on the effectiveness of the preparation in Seattle. I frankly had the feeling that most of it was repetitious of things that we pastors had been over many times in evangelism schools, and had the feeling confirmed - after spending a few days in Hydaburg - that it was my responsibility to follow the guidance of the pastor. My reason for saying this is that ideas which I thought should be followed at the first of the week - and which Paul was not following - I discovered would not have been good ideas as the week progressed.

I was very much impressed with the men who are on the mission field in Alaska, and I am sure that the missionaries should follow the local pastor's guidance.

Preparation given us in Seattle which helped us to understand the problems faced by our Alaskan pastors - as to how we should conduct ourselves - and which things we could expect - was very adequate and helpful.

I know that one of the fundamental purposes of the mission was evangelism, but even if the Department of Evangelism thinks that the mission's numerical results do not justify continued participation in this, I think it would be a great loss to the church to drop it. For you now have 15 more able ambassadors for the cause of the world wide mission of the church than you had a month ago. Not only that, you have 15 congregations - and only time will tell how many more - which will be getting first hand stories of this thrilling work. Further, with the local churches assuming major costs, this program will be a good source of benevolent revenue.

There is no way to evaluate the impact upon the church in Alaska created by the knowledge that there are congregations who care enough to share their pastors. As for an evaluation of the sight-seeing trip: I have implied that it was very profitable for me and my people. The local men did a good job showing us around.

My only criticism is that you might arrange the weather so that we would not miss reservations: this aggravates ministerial ulcers!

Again, my thanks for the opportunity of being a part of this outstanding program.

Sincerely,



William A. Smith

WAS:bl

Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
 November 13, 1958  
 Page 2

1. Preparation for mission. Dr. Walter Soboleff and the members of Memorial Presbyterian Church through prayer and announcements and other means of promotion had prepared for the coming of the missionary.

The Sunday morning worship, October 19, was attended by about 110 people. This attendance, I think, was exceptionally good in view of the fact that the membership of the church is less than 200. Dr. Soboleff seemed pleased with the response of the people. The attendance on Sunday morning, October 26, was about 100. At the services on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, the attendance was very good. The attendance on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening was somewhat smaller, with the fewest in attendance on Saturday evening which had been designated as youth program. There was no service on Monday evening, October 20, but at noon on that day I spoke to the Lion's Club meeting in the Baranof Hotel.

2. Invitation to come to Christ. I felt it best to ask Dr. Soboleff to extend the invitation to any unreached in the congregation. This he did, I thought, with genuine feeling and thoughtful approach. Those concerned about commitment to Christ were requested to remain in the sanctuary after the benediction. While none remained for a first commitment, there were some reconsecrations.

✓ 3. Good singing. The choir of Memorial was led by Cyrus Peck, who a number of years ago attended San Anselmo Theological Seminary in preparation for lay work and who was at least once a commissioner to General Assembly. Mr. Peck, I thought, did an excellent job with his choir composed mostly of youth. I was greatly inspired by the special numbers, as I was also by the congregational singing. I was deeply moved when the choir sang the Hymn, "At The Cross", in the Thlingit language.

4. Sermon themes were "What Shall I Do With Jesus?", "God Loves You", "Do You Love God?", "When We Start Praying", "The Right Direction", "Every Man In His Place" (Laymen's Breakfast), "Being A Disciple of Christ", "The Responsibility of Youth", and "A Shelter Which Protects", and "There's A Cross for Everyone". The Sunday morning sermons were broadcast.

✓ 5. Pastoral Calling. The first Saturday night I was in Juneau, Dr. Soboleff and I called at the jail on a young man, the son of an Elder in the Memorial Presbyterian Church, who had been incarcerated because of drunkenness. I was much impressed when Dr. Soboleff had the young man kneel while his Minister prayed, while I prayed, and while the young man himself prayed. On the same evening I went with Dr. Soboleff to deliver a radio set to two Thlingit women so they could hear the Thlingit News broadcast by Dr. Soboleff that same evening.

One afternoon Dr. Soboleff and I called upon John Weaver. John Weaver is an aged Thlingit who more than twenty years ago lost his vision in



Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
November 13, 1958  
Page 3

a mine explosion. There was no insurance or compensation available for him. Weaver lives on the bank of the Gastineau Channel in a dirty and dingy hut. His wife is dead. He knows only two or three English words, but he talked almost incessantly in Thlingit. He is a Christian; but is having hallucinations now, especially in the early morning hours. I was much impressed by the understanding and love of Dr. Soboleff for Weaver. I read a portion of Scripture which was translated verse by verse into the Thlingit language by Dr. Soboleff. Then Dr. Soboleff and I in turn offered prayer.

I called with Dr. Soboleff one afternoon at two hospitals on several Thlingit Indian patients. Dr. Soboleff, after giving words of comfort and good cheer, offered prayer with every patient visited.

One afternoon, while Dr. Soboleff was conducting a funeral service, I made several hospital calls, all on Thlingit Indians.

6. Instruction in lay evangelism and in stewardship. On Sunday afternoon, October 26, I instructed some of the officers of Memorial in evangelism by means of lay visitation. I had suggested this program to Dr. Soboleff, and he readily thought it a good idea as no such program had ever been tried at that church. I felt this type of program more fitted to that particular church than Friendship Evangelism. I had hoped that we might go visiting that afternoon for new members, but Dr. Soboleff felt this program should be projected at a later date. That same afternoon I instructed the same group in Every Member Canvass methods. The church this year was to have the first actual every member canvass.

It is my hope that good results may come to Memorial from lay evangelism and from the every member canvass.

7. The Circle Tour was worth the cost and time required. Much observation and many rich Christian experiences were crowded into those few days following the conclusion of the preaching mission. Concerning the tour to observe our Presbyterian work, the following impressions are given:

✓ (1) The leadership of Presbyterian work in Alaska, certainly what I saw, is in able and consecrated hands. I was deeply impressed with the ability, training, devotion, and industry, of people like Earl Jackman, Walter Soboleff, Isabell Miller, Brian Cleworth, Victor Alfsen, John C. Stokes, Joseph Heckel, Frank Walkup, Lowell Campbell, Ralph Weeks, Ken Smith, Paul Evans, Richard Stussi, Fred Koschmann, and many others. Here are servants of the Christ of whom our denomination surely is justly proud.

(2) The new Presbyterian church building program in Alaska is quite interesting. I liked the paneling in the sanctuaries I saw in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Sitka. To see such modernistic, yet worshipful, sanctuaries was an exciting experience.

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Dr. Earl Jackman  
November 13, 1958  
Page 4

(3) Sheldon Jackson College can claim much credit for helping educate the youth of Alaska. The interracial faculty and student body left an indelible impression on me; for here was not only more of Christian charity and democracy than in many parts of the world but also an opportunity for training for useful endeavor in the world.

(4) Radio Station KSEW, I felt, was operating on a sound policy of allowing different denominations in the community to broadcast their programs even though the station is owned by Presbyterians.

(5) Hospitality House, I thought, was a home of mercy and compassion for girls in need of such service.

✓ (6) The Presbyterian Navy offered one of the most fascinating experiences of the entire trip to Alaska. To know about the ministry carried on by the leaders of the Anna Jackman and the Princeton Hall was both instructive and inspiring.

✓ I have been delighted with the interest in Alaska of my people at the Northside Presbyterian Church. During the preaching mission in Alaska, most of the members of the church, at 12:00 noon, paused to offer a brief prayer for the success and blessing of the mission. Next Wednesday I will give the final program, with pictures of Alaska, in a four program series on Presbyterian work in Alaska. The mission study was so planned after learning that the Minister was to be one of the missionaries.

✓ I feel that in every way the mission was worthwhile. It was a profound blessing to me personally, and I shall never cease being grateful for the privilege of going to the 49th state. I feel too that our people will be more concerned with, and more liberal in giving to, the great Christian witness in Alaska.

If there should be any questions which you might wish to ask about other impressions of the Alaska mission, I would be happy to try to answer such questions.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,

*Harry R. Mercer*

Harry R. Mercer  
/vm

cc: Rev. Dean H. Lewis



NOV 18 1958

MANSE PHONE: LAKEVIEW 4-3026

CHURCH PHONE: LAKEVIEW 5-8787

## Wedgwood Presbyterian Church

8008 THIRTY-FIFTH AVENUE N. E.  
SEATTLE 15, WASHINGTON

REV. ROBERT A. MILLS, MINISTER

November 14, 1958

Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
Board of National Missions  
156 - 5th Ave.  
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I am glad of the opportunity to express to you, and to the Division of Evangelism, my sincere appreciation for the opportunity of participating in the recent Alaska Preaching Mission. I was deeply impressed with the dedication that was so evident throughout Alaska. Some of the most dedicated ministers I have ever met are our men in Alaska. Many ministers are literally "loving" people into the church by their long hours of patience and deep understanding. Some of the churches in Southeastern Alaska have been built by our ministers. Such is the case in Petersburg, which was my station.

Ron Snelling has established a church in Petersburg in the last 6½ years that is truly amazing. In a Norwegian town, where the population is predominately Lutheran, our church has now, after years of losing out to the Lutheran Church, come into its own. Membership now is about 55 and Church School 125. This is an interracial church and the Spirit of God is evident in so many ways as you see and move among these people who are learning and growing each day in their Christian experience. With only 55 members I expected just a very small group each evening. To my surprise, every night the attendance was between 35 and 57. Only the first night was low with 20 due to many other meetings in town. In a difficult field God is at work.

I enjoyed immensely visiting in the homes each afternoon. The question often asked was "Do you like our work in Alaska and is the church at home aware of us?" They would often say to me "We sincerely appreciate your coming. You left your work just to be with us". The warmth and dedication is something I shall never forget. I shall never forget one man, a Hyda Indian (among the Thlingits) who has a real battle with drink. He was under conviction a good part of the week, then went off on a "spree" but came back the last three nights and held up his hand for prayer the last night. He told me afterward that he knew that God was going to help him. Several mentioned that they had grown spiritually during the week. The program of evangelism, both at present and as to the future, seems to me to be very adequate.

I spoke of the dedication of the pastors. The dedication of some of these Christian people is amazing. The per capita giving is often much higher than many churches here.

1958 Alaska Preaching Mission  
Report  
from

inc. P.M.A. ticket  
#314 46039  
Seattle Alaska - Petersburg  
11/15/58  
Pac Northwest  
File

NOV 18 1958

It is true that much still needs to be done in Alaska. But with more roads being built, the talk of a ferry system to Alaska, new industry, etc., the possibilities are unlimited. Our church is going to have to move out in a new way if the Presbyterians are going to remain strong in Alaska.

Coming from the Synod of Washington (of which Alaska is a part) I am aware of our special responsibility to our churches and men in Alaska and Yukon Presbyteries. I feel we must find ways and means by which we can make all our churches aware of the work in Alaska. We must provide some means to enable our Alaska pastors to come to the other states in order that the story can be told.

While the needs are great and costs are high we must not say "We cannot do more." I think perhaps we sometimes invest the churches money only where we feel there will come back quick returns. Is this following the Will of God? Or do we have a responsibility to the people in more sparsely populated areas? Investment may be slower here, but we are investing in souls for eternity.

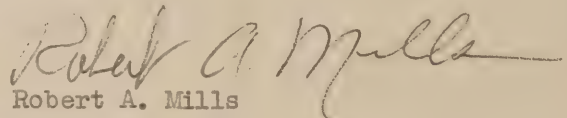
Dr. Jackman and his team in Alaska are to be commended for their work and vision.

I feel this type of mission is of the utmost importance, and although all the results cannot be tabulated on paper, the fellowship on the part of missionary and local pastor, the growth and interest of the people both in home and field church, to say nothing of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of so many, is certainly worth all the effort.

I trust the plan will be continued from year to year. The more our churches participate the greater will be the total impact on Alaska.

I have been humbled by the experience and am grateful for the privilege given me in participating in the mission.

Sincerely,



Rev. Robert A. Mills

RAM/fg

cc to Rev. Dean H. Lewis



# First Presbyterian Church

W. Russell Gilmore, D.D., Minister

Metlakatla and Woodroff  
St. Clairsville, Ohio

November 15, 1958

NOV 19 1958

*Metlakatla*

## ALASKAN NARRATIVE

Adding Point Barrow to my itinerary made me the rearguard of the Alaskan Mission, but it was certainly worth the extra investment of time and cash, giving me a more informed perspective of Alaska from the southernmost tip at Metlakatla to the northernmost point at Barrow. It is my studied judgment that men like Walt Disney, Lowell Thomas and Ed Sullivan, with their movie and TV showings, are giving the public a grossly lop-sided impression of Alaska. I am planning in my addresses, for which I am already being stampeded, since everybody is thinking and talking Alaska these days, to give what I hope will be a more composite picture of what will soon be our newest state. Of course, I expect to do all this unpretentiously, being a mere "cheechako", for three weeks would hardly make me a sourdough.

I also feel eternally indebted for the privilege of serving and visiting the longest in typical Indian and Eskimo villages rather than in towns or cities, giving me more natural impressions of the Christian impact upon the economic and social as well as religious life of the natives. For instance, in Metlakatla, where I resided nine days, I met with the mayor (Presbyterian clerk of session) and other Indians, including the village's delegate (also a member of our church) to the North Pacific Fisheries' Commission in Tokyo, entering into the discussion of the salmon fiasco, which is jeopardizing the economic life of Metlakatla and other Indian villages, similarly disposed. In fact, on October 26, I baptized nine babies, some of whom were the children of parents, who are being uprooted and relocated, principally in Washington and California, because they can no longer subsist on their fishing income. It is my conviction that all this also has an evangelical impact, since Jesus came to save the "whole man."

There were no striking conversions during my week at Metlakatla but there were several promising personal contacts and reaffirmations of faith. My native host, Henry Fawcett, was pleased because the toughest Indian in town, who had made a Christian commitment in his earlier days but had long digressed, came to a number of the services; and, according to Henry, will have a great influence upon his numerous cronies, who follow his example. Couples who had long absented themselves from the church were in attendance, notably a couple who have been on the verge of "breaking up" and another couple, where the husband has been quite an alcoholic. Many of these people rededicated themselves to the Lord, but there was no attempt to high pressure the congregations.

One night we disbanded to unite with the Duncanites, the competing church, for a consolation service during a small plague, which swept through the village, causing some deaths among the children. We believe this made a tremendous contribution toward healing the breach between the two flocks, which has been the cause of considerable bitterness between contending factions. The new minister of the Dunkirk Church, Rev. Louis Gerneart, shows promise of greater co-operation than has been evident for years. A "funspiration", as we called it, held the middle of the week, in which I told some of my experiences on the stage before going into the ministry, including some tricks, brought a healthy response from both Duncanites and Presbyterians at a time

NOV 19 1958

Alaskan Narrative  
Page 2

of great tension in the community. Some of the Dancanites wanted to unite with our church while I was there, but Henry was reluctant to receive them at this time. I think his judgment was good, under the present circumstances.

The lay preacher, Mr. Fawcett, felt that my address and talks by the laity at an officers' meeting did more than anything else to stabilize the relationship between the leaders and give them a fresh lease and encouragement for the common task. On top of economic difficulties the village just suffered a fishing boat disaster with the loss of several lives. My Board of Deacons and some individuals at home had armed me with some funds, which I used to help relieve the distress of some of the families of our church in Metlakatla, where wage earners had been drowned. It was a great blessing to minister to these families personally.

While Henry Fawcett is young, and I understand has had some difficulty with his studies, he nevertheless proved admirably adept not only in pulpit presence and presentation but also in the many wonderful ways in which he did odd jobs during the week to make my evangelistic efforts more meaningful. In spite of being a "hometown boy", his people show him a loving response. I certainly hope his malignancy will respond to radium treatments. He is very active and consecrated to his task. You should feel no alarm for the Metlakatla congregation under his surveillance until an ordained man can be obtained for the post. Moreover, I was amazed to find one of two hardest working and ablest women in the church the mother of twenty-three children. Here is a shining example for all mothers with two or three children, who beg off helping in the Lord's work.

I found John and Barbara Chambers enthusiastically beginning their ministry at Point Barrow, cheerfully experiencing inconveniences for the Master's sake at the "top of the world". They were overjoyed to receive my box of delicacies, including a \$1.10 head of lettuce a la Fairbanks. It was a thrilling experience to participate in the mid-week service. The attendance terrifically out-shone the Metlakatla congregations numerically. I fell in love with my Eskimo friends. The Barrow Boy Scouts were happy to receive a contribution from one of the troops in my home church. And I felt like an Explorer Scout myself seeing seals and walruses and a big polar bear, freshly killed by an Eskimo hunter. At Sheldon Jackson Junior College I was delighted to meet many of the sons and daughters of parents whom I had come to know personally at Metlakatla and Barrow. I joined in their Hallowe'en party; and, after winning their confidence, was told of an incident, which might suggest a constructive thought for future briefing conferences at Seattle. I am not sure of the exact quote, but it seems that one of the missionaries, addressing the S. J. students, paraphrased Rossetti something like this: "If I were an Indian, I would give Him a deer. If I were an Eskimo, I would give Him a whale. If I were an American, I would give Him my heart." The Indian and Eskimo boys and girls greatly resented the inference that they are not Americans, too. Forgive me for mentioning this, but I felt I must. Doubtless I pulled many boners, too. It would behoove us all to take a course in applied psychology. I know your efforts along this line at Seattle were greatly appreciated by us all.

It was a rewarding and humbling experience to preach the everlasting gospel so far from home but not kindred, for it was even more revealing to find so much in common with my Christian brother, be he Indian or Eskimo, thanks to the pioneer labors of National Missions. I want to thank the Department of Work in Alaska and the Division of Evangelism for the invitation to share in an altogether too brief venture into "the last frontier." I feel like a thief and a robber, having received such a great blessing personally. I hope some of it will rub off on my people here at home by the indwelling quickening of the Holy Spirit. I know that I left a big chunk of yours truly in "the great land".



# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morris Avenue at Main Street  
Springfield, New Jersey

8/10/57  
BRUCE WHITEFIELD EVANS, Minister

Office: DRexel 9-4320

1958 Alaska Preaching Mission  
10. Sitka  
November 19, 1958

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska  
Room 711  
Presbyterian National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Letter # 46014.  
RT am - Ketch.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I should like to express my appreciation to your Department of National Missions and the Division of Evangelism for my participation in the 1958 Alaska Preaching Mission. I have found it truly an inspiring experience which will be of tremendous value to me in my ministry and I hope, through me, to many others. I am to speak before the Elizabeth Presbytery shortly and I shall try to pass on to them a bit of your own enthusiasm for this strategic work.

From the beginning I was impressed with the thoroughness and care with which you and your office prepared the missionaries. The briefing in Seattle was accomplished with precision, dispatch and personal interest. It filled one with a sense of anticipation and eagerness at the same time giving the all important factual information.

The Division of Evangelism deserves our whole hearted praise as well. The materials they furnished us were timely and applicable in every way. Dr. Turnbull's address was very well received as were Dean Lewis' comments. Mr. Lewis' informal remarks based on personal observations were most helpful. The necessary "adaptation" suggested was not overstressed--it certainly prepared us for any eventuality. My only question here would be whether the churches in Alaska were as thoroughly briefed as we were and were they really set with a program ready to go? In some instances I seemed to feel that we as missionaries were expected to bring in a program rather than assisting in developing a program decided upon by a local congregation.

My own stay in Sitka was, I felt, most enjoyable, enlightening and profitable. The people were most cordial and more than one expressed a personal sense of appreciation for the preaching and visiting. I would not say that we accomplished anything spectacular but I trust that the sermons and personal contacts given will bear fruit in the future as they are followed by the local pastor. Practically every minute of my time was taken up with church work and I was constantly on the go. I believe, in trying to make an evaluation, we suffered from too broad a program; we were trying to accomplish too much in too short a time. A typical day's schedule was as follows: 7:50 a.m. Address Student Body at Sheldon Jackson. 9:00 a.m. Conduct a 15 minute church program over KSEW. 10:00 a.m. Meet Sheldon Jackson Students in personal interviews. 11:50 a.m. Leave for luncheon engagement at Mt. Edgecumbe. 2:30 p.m. Return to Church 5:30 p.m. Leave for dinner engagement. 8:00 p.m. Evening Church Service 9:15 p.m. Work

Dr. Jackman--2

Party at the Church or visit to a family. At the close of the week I found I had spoken 22 times in eight days.

Early in the mission I asked those who wished to make a commitment or those who had already done so to stand; this was coupled with the invitation for those who wished to know more of the Christian faith to meet with the Pastor and myself at the close of the service. It seemed to me that practically every one in the room stood but only two or three came forward. Having talked to several elders and knowing the make up of the student body at Sheldon Jackson (who constituted a large portion of the congregation each evening), I decided to place the emphasis of my preaching on the necessity of following through our commitment with a more specific understanding of Christ's teaching and an intimate association with the community of believers, the Church. Frankly, I was seeking to adapt Dr. Turnbull's statement as I remembered it, "Every child born into this world has a right to be born into a family; every person who is born anew in Christ has a right to be born into the family of the Church." It was my earnest belief that this was the greatest need to be met and the local pastor's comment was "whatever you want to do".

From my limited experience in Alaska I have gained a new perspective and appreciation of the tremendous work being done there by a dedicated people against terrific odds. I have never met a more sincere or dedicated group of ministers anywhere to compare to those in Alaska. They, together with their people, so often put us to shame. I have given them the highest praise wherever I have gone. Such dedication I feel reflects the intense personal interest and concern of you and your department for the varied work carried on there. I trust I will be able to create a new interest on the part of all our churches here in the work in Alaska and do all within my ability to uphold our work there.

Again, may I express my own appreciation together with that of the congregation of the Springfield Presbyterian Church for the honor accorded me in participating in this preaching mission.

Sincerely,



Bruce W. Evans

BWE/C  
CC--Dean Lewis



1958 Al Preaching Mission  
from Dr. Earl Jackman  
Anchorage  
Hillcrest Church  
Columbia and Lake Roads

NOV 19 1958  
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# BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Columbia and Lake Roads -- -- Bay Village, Ohio

TRinity 1-4421

November 19, 1958

Dr. Earl Jackman  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I shall be in debt forever to you and the Board of National Missions for inviting me to serve on the fourth Alaskan preaching mission. The experience was worth more than a whole season of summer school. It provided opportunity to participate in and to observe the operation of a large segment of our denomination's mission work.

First, regarding our Presbyterian mission in Alaska -- I feel that in general the quality of the work and the overall program is good. Certainly no one can question the dedication and devotion of the personnel involved. I brought home the highest praise for the sincerity and consecration of every missionary-pastor and worker I met. The administration of the Alaskan work is also positive and alive. Changing conditions and challenging situations are being faced openly and aggressively. Every conceivable means of approach and all the ingenuity of man is being put to service for Christ -- "On the land, on the sea, and in the air." The Alaskan program of our church is carrying the gospel to every man regardless of how small the village or how isolated, and inaccessible the location. I was also glad to see with the influx of people from the other states that our church was not forgetting the natives, Indians and Eskimos, who still are precious souls in the sight of God.

Secondly, regarding the week of the evangelistic mission -- my assignment was the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, Anchorage. We met with the other three Presbyterian churches of Anchorage for a special women's meeting, men's meeting, youth rally, and closing Sunday evening service. I believe the preparations for the week were thorough and effective. The Hillcrest church has a rapid turnover of people due to its location just outside the Elmendorf air base. This makes a challenging task for the pastor and church.

On the first Sunday morning I spoke to the Sunday School which had 130 in attendance. At morning worship I preached to a congregation of about 90. In the evening I spoke to the young people numbering 25 in attendance and preached at the evening service. The host pastor, Rev. Paul Evans, was disappointed that only about 40 attended. Monday and Tuesday evenings were spent in visitation evangelism. Some time was spent in training and then calls were made. Thirty homes were visited. One night we had five teams, the other night four teams.

NOV 20 1958

Dr. Earl Jackman, Board of  
National Missions - 2.

November 19, 1958

After training the teams for this work I would have preferred that their calls had been to fulfill their real purpose; however the local ministers had decided that in the calling those nights the teams should simply invite people to the special meetings at the church. I felt this was lowering our sights a bit. I hope that the training which I gave may become the best thing that I did during the entire week, if it is carried through.

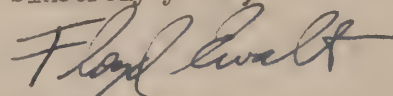
On Wednesday we spoke to the women's meeting in the afternoon and to the men's meeting in the evening. Both of these were good meetings. On Thursday night we had a popular preaching service at the church with about 40 in attendance, and a similar service and response on Friday night. The youth rally on Saturday night worked out very well. On the final Sunday morning I spoke at the men's breakfast in the Hillcrest church, to the Sunday School and preached at the morning service. We had a good attendance and at the close the pastor reported to me that there were six or seven new families there. In this service I called for a decision (by show of hands) to promise to read the Bible systematically every day. The closing evening service was held downtown in the First Presbyterian Church. We closed this service with a regular call for commitment and rededication (by show of hands).

While the numerical results at Hillcrest church were not large, I do feel that they were significant in proportion to the present size of the congregation. I felt that some spiritual growth was made by individuals and by the congregation as a whole. The spirit of the people was wonderful. Toward the end of the week the way opened for me to suggest a few things to the minister which might improve and save time in the clerical procedure of following up new names and new families. I was unable to do any calling in the afternoon due to the tight schedule of side trips, TV and radio interviews, etc. which had been arranged for us.

Thirdly, regarding the tour of the other mission points -- this was very beneficial. From Fairbanks to Ketchikan it was a joy to see what was being done. We actually appreciated being "socked in" an extra day at Sheldon-Jackson College where we became better acquainted with the faculty and college program. We condensed our visit to the churches in Juneau to three hours and thus were able to make up time and keep on schedule for the rest of the tour. Despite rainy weather, I was able to get some good pictures both inside and out.

The congregation of the Bay Presbyterian Church responded enthusiastically to my trip. I feel that the Alaskan work is better known to our people and has gained a real place in our hearts.

Sincerely yours,



Floyd W. Ewalt  
Minister

FWE:hm



For a minister in the former United Presbyterian Church of North America, it was a thrilling and challenging opportunity to discover the extent of the work of Christ under the Board of National Missions in an entirely new portion of North America - the Alaskan Frontier. Although the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. has had work in Alaska for many years, we "United Presbyterians" have known very little about the field. Our vision is enlarging. And I covet, both for myself and for others, the opportunity of continuing to discover the exciting mission areas of our new denomination.

My personal preparation for the Alaska Mission was inadequate due to the lateness of the invitation and acceptance, and due to the rather late communications from the host pastor. (I was not informed definitely until the day I left for Seattle that I was to preach each evening during the week. Previously it had been mentioned in a letter that the Session was still considering the possibility of cottage type meetings.) However, the information given me by Dr. Jackman was clear and very helpful toward giving me an understanding of the local situation in Ketchikan. Indeed, the two letters from the host pastor, Paul Moser, were of great help in giving me a picture of what to expect so far as people and church were concerned. But, after arriving at my assigned station, I found it necessary to re-write several sermons due to the very small attendance and the exceedingly informal character of the meetings. This, no doubt, is what Dr. Jackman meant by urging us to be "adaptable". Certainly the fault is no one's but mine.

The total Presbyterian Mission picture in Alaska was a thrilling, exciting, frustrating and humbling thing. It was thrilling to see the work, and the fruits of the work of many dedicated men and women across the years. It was exciting to have a small part in that work, and to feel at first hand the pulse-throb of Christ's mission in a frontier area. It was frustrating to sense the lethargy and apathy of many of the native people and the strong racial feeling (in Ketchikan, at least) between the natives and the whites who have migrated to Alaska. And it was humbling to note the great dedication and devotion of the missionaries and their wives. Very frankly, I would not want to share the isolation and hardship and frustration of their positions for long. I was humbled to think of my own ministry, with the comparative ease of life and the luxury of building and equipment which are mine. Surely some of God's truly great men and women are serving their Lord and Master on this growing edge of the church.

Ketchikan was the station to which I was assigned, and I am grateful for the privilege of being allowed to minister, even for a short period, in this church. There is challenge and opportunity here! I sensed a warm spirit of Christian vision among some of the congregation, and I venture to state that there is a great future ahead for this congregation as it prepares to move to a new location. There is some feeling against such a move, of course, but if the minister and the few leaders of the congregation can stress the new opportunities of moving, and the larger vision of a growing church that can be more effective in Christian witness to the entire community, and if the move itself can be "spiritualized" I believe the congregation will get behind it. I am confident that the future of the church will be jeopardized if those who are apathetic and negative in their

NOV 9 11 1989

attitudes are allowed to sway the others of the congregation. It will be possible to convince the people that a re-location of the church is not "turning the church's back on the natives" and is not "taking their church away from them." Christian grace and love can overcome many obstacles. (This is not pious talk. I have lived through a re-location program and the experience has been rich.) Prayer, devotion to the major task and challenge, and patient forbearance will be the order of the day!

The Mission to Alaska would seem to have had these results for me:

1. A first-hand acquaintance with what has been an unknown mission endeavor.
2. A stimulation of my own and my congregation's interest in a nearby mission enterprise - an interest which will, no doubt, increase as together we translate it into action and support.
3. A deepening of my own spiritual life. I felt driven to my knees many times during the course of the mission, both in prayer for myself and my contribution, and for the host-pastor and the tremendous problems he is facing.
4. A rich fellowship with hitherto unknown fellow-ministers in our "new denomination". I felt very close to these men and have been stimulated by their interest and devotion to the Christian cause.

In addition, I hope that both the local minister and the local congregation in Ketchikan were helped spiritually, and that perhaps I was able to give a fresh note to the Christian message of life and love. If I were located in a distant mission field, I would be given strength by having a minister from "home" share such a mission with me. I hope that this was true of Paul Moser.

It is to be hoped that a new two-way communication will have been opened between the church "at home" and the church "on the frontier."

The only suggestion I would care to make would be to continue this mission program, and intensify it, if possible. I believe it is worthwhile and justified. If there are missions in the years to come, I would further suggest a reappraisal of the "circle tour" idea, with some care being given to the scheduling so that more time might be given to the several stations visited. I personally felt that arriving at Fairbanks late in the evening and leaving very early the next morning gave no worthwhile reason for having made that particular portion of the trip.

Robert L. Caldwell



NOV 26 1958  
K

*1958 at Pt. Barrow Mission*  
Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church

FOUNDED 1683

Snow Hill, Maryland

24 November 1958

*re. J. R. Holsey  
(Auke Bay)*

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska  
Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I was very fortunate to get to Snow Hill by 8:23 A.M. Sunday, November 9, 1958. I was tired but I was able to share God's message with His people in Stockton and Snow Hill. It was a great thrill to be a part of the Fourth Alaskan Evangelistic Mission and I shall cherish every minute as a rich spiritual blessing in His Kingdom's Work.

I had one unused ticket between Ketchikan and Annette but I can't seem to locate it. If you can make any adjustment I will appreciate it but if you can't I will understand why.

My thanks to you Sir for letting me share in this Mission. I have always had a very personal attachment to Jesus Christ as my Saviour and now I am more thankful than ever that this is true. A rich re-birth daily is my spiritual strength and to be a part of His Kingdom is my life, so you may have some small idea as to what this Mission has meant for me.

The spiritual life of our men in the Alaskan field is very high and it was a joy to be their co-worker for eight days. At the present time, if I were called from the Snow Hill area, I would be very happy to serve our Lord in Alaska. The Lord surely has blessed Alaska with your leadership and understanding and has blessed you with workers who are willing to learn of God's ways in this field. Again, I want to thank you for this wonderful, enriching experience.

The experience which I had while at Auke Bay was very gratifying. Personal decisions to accept Christ for the first time were not in evidence but a re-dedication to a higher calling was known and accepted. It is hard to say what will come out of this experience for the congregation of the Chapel-by-the-Lake....for one would have to plan carefully the follow-up program. Ken Smith and I discussed this rather thoroughly

# Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church

FOUNDED 1683

Snodgrass Hill, Maryland

(2)

and I believe the Session will become more active in the future in regard to its spiritual life and growth.

I think if I were to do this again I would like to try the following.....After the 1st Sunday morning worship service, I would like to have everyone eat together (?) and then advance on the community en masse (two by two) being sure that as far as possible every home would be visited. The purpose would be to arrange for commitment and transportation to the opening meeting that Sunday evening. This should be a take-no-for-an-answer, one-shot affair. At the evening meeting, warmth, friendliness and the Gospel message should be real. After this, there should be a get-acquainted time for one and all.

I know this is a hard day's work but I know the results are outstanding and I believe it would be a great help to the Mission.

Now, Ken Smith did have a get-acquainted time with the officers on Saturday night and this was good but I sure think that this type of follow-up on Sunday would be worth the effort.

Throughout the week, our Mission at Auke Bay was enriching but it took us too long to warm-up to the task at hand. If this warm-up would come on the 1st Sunday, I am sure the week would grow in its witness.

In connection with this idea, the congregation could be given an instructional time on how-to-make-a-visit and if need be, this could even be a part of the 1st Sunday's worship hour. Here is where our Evangelistic material could be of great helpfulness and at the same time a yearly program could be visualized as a congregational project.

I hope that this idea might be worth some thought and I know that it is impractical it will be of little loss.

Once again I want to thank you all for your kindness and your help. It has been a real joy to have had a part in this work with you.

May the Lord continue to bless you in all



*Alakemie Memorial Presbyterian Church*

FOUNDED 1683

*Snow Hill, Maryland*

(3)

service unto Him.

Yours in His service,

*J. Raymond Holsey*  
J. Raymond Holsey  
Minister

JRH:jh

Copy to: Dean H. Lewis, Secretary, Western Area  
Division of Evangelism

P.S. I was happy to have had the opportunity to speak at the  
Chapel Service when I was delayed in Sitka,

NOV 28 1958

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Fifth Avenue at D Street  
Anchorage, Alaska*

FRANK J. WALKUP  
PASTOR

MISS MARJORIE MELLEN  
DIRECTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## AN EVALUATION OF THE PREACHING MISSION OF 1958

I reflect upon our spiritual emphasis week with mixed feelings.

I am happy for the fellowship with people of our other Presbyterian Churches which came about by having combined meetings. We ought to find more occasions for the Presbyterians of Anchorage to get together and to have a sense of our "oneness". I noticed an increasing friendliness among the people as the week progressed, and am confident that many people appreciated it. Subsequent meetings seem to indicate that many of our people are nearer to being able to think of a Presbyterian strategy for our area, rather than to think of their church as in competition to all other churches.

The advantages of union meetings were partially offset by the fact that many of our people did not support these meetings as though it wasn't their particular responsibility because it involved other Churches. Our attendance was disappointingly low. The response of other years stemming from a feeling of loyalty was not as great as ~~formerly~~ *this year*.

Dr. Lawrence Fisher is a great man and a fine minister. Our people were much inspired by him, but yet they did not have a feeling that he belonged especially to them and to our Church as they have had with guest preachers in the past; when these guest ministers was associated with but one congregation. Sharing the guest minister seemed to dull the contacts with him and prevented an intimate spiritual fellowship and concern for the Church that seemed so vital in other years. We are reaping benefits from the close personal contacts with each of the guest ministers that we have had, but this year there seemed to be less of these; even when we had a man who might well have given more of inspiration and insight than many others.

My recommendations for another year would be to supply guest ministers for each of the churches, and yet combine some meetings so as to bring most of the workers from the Anchorage Presbyterian churches together during the mission for a sense of their "oneness". I like the impact of a united publicity program.

I wonder if there might be great value in a guest minister having his wife along, and hope that someday that might be accomplished too.

Frank J. Walkup.



## Memo to Missioners in the Alaska Preaching Mission

The following are a list of suggestions which have come from the pastors in Alaska regarding the Alaska Mission. They are meant to be of help to those who are preparing to take part in the Mission. Read them carefully and plan accordingly.

1. Be prepared for flexible plans. Some churches will have open meetings every night while others may have selected groups such as officers coming in for a time of discussion and worship on some of the evenings.
2. Be prepared to speak each night or to instruct officers in some aspect of the work of the church.
3. Plan sermons on basic theological themes and others on how to put faith into action.
4. After a man has been in a situation a few days he may want to change from his original plans.
5. Be thoroughly familiar with the evangelism materials and be prepared to adapt them to the local situation.
6. Be prepared to help start such a program as Friendship Evangelism and not expect it to be in operation when you arrive in Alaska.
7. Be prepared to face such a problem as every one in a community belonging or thinking they belong to the "church."
8. Do not expect very much organization nor concern about missions in the local churches. In some areas church activities only begin in October because the fishermen have been away.
9. Expect small crowds in most places, and no sense of "awe" because of the visitor. Our people have seen many important visitors.
10. The men who come from large well organized churches should expect small young churches. Many of the men have become discouraged, at first, over small crowds and the apathy of the people.
11. We need real preaching for Christ. We need decisions that will result in people working for Christ.
12. In reality the life of our churches has been sparked by past missions. Christians have come out every night and found real spiritual nourishment. Many others have been moved to make a real decision for Christ.
13. Every man feels that the real results do not always show up immediately, that the fruit of the mission is harvested during the rest of the year.

*1958 at Preaching Mission*  
**SOUTHMINSTER  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1120 East Thirty-Fourth Street  
TULSA 5, OKLAHOMA

James L. Cottrell, D. D., Minister  
D. D. Whiting, Assistant Minister

Phone RI 2-0391



En route to Atlantic City,  
December 1, 1958

Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue, Room 411  
New York 10 N.Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:-

I regret that the duties which had piled up while I was on the Alaska trip, plus conducting a Church Officer Training seminar at York, Nebraska, plus a couple days at Omaha at the Benson Presbyterian Church have prevented getting to you a report on the Alaska trip. You may be sure the delay was not expressive of lack of enthusiasm for the experience in Alaska. It was all that was hoped for, and more.

The pictures I took in the form of colored slides turned out well, and in my own congregation and another Presbyterian church of Tulsa I have given talks and shown the pictures of the work in Alaska.

The experience was especially helpful to me, for I had not known of the full extent of the work of the USA church in Alaska. The week at Skagway was most pleasant and profitable to me. It is my hope that it was of help to the congregation.

I came away with a real appreciation of the fine work that is done under trying and sometimes discouraging circumstances. The men who will keep plugging away in fields such as Skagway, where even the townspeople don't hold up great hopes even for the existence of their town, much less of their church, certainly deserve much credit.

How much of a lasting program of evangelism I was able to get started while I was at Skagway is somewhat to be questioned. I discovered on the part of the church folks, both men and women' groups, a considerable reluctance to visit on unchurched of their town. Their attitude when I talked of visitation or friendship evangelism was---"We know everyone in this town of 600 so well that we feel very hesitant and awkward in now trying to get them into the church." I can understand their feeling, although I could hope that the reluctance might be overcome. Much depends, too, upon the follow-through of the resident minister in such situations as Skagway.

It was a very profitable week---for me. The folks of the congregation and the Dick Turners were kind enough to say that they felt it was profitable for them also. The results in the Tulsa area provided by my sharing with Oklahoma folks what is being done in Alaska may be greater than what was



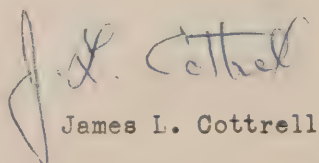
accomplished on the field.

I have no suggestions to make as to improvements to make on next year's approach to the Alaska Mission, either from the viewpoint of the Department of Evangelism or from that of the Board of National Missions. It would seem to me that a blanket suggestion for the work in Alaska would be quite impossible, for there is such a wide variety of types of congregations there.---small village churches as well as self-supporting congregations. My impression was that the work was being excellently sponsored. I felt along with you that there is a certain handicap to having only ministers from larger churches on the Mission, for even though we do not leave the impression we are from larger churches, they know that only larger congregations could afford to send their ministers on such a jaunt---resulting, perhaps, in a feeling of not being understood because the churches to which we minister in Alaska are so much smaller than those we are accustomed to serve. It could mean that they therefore discount some of the methods we present, even though we do not quote our methods in a "This is the way we do it at Southminster" manner.

This letter is being typed while the train is rocking along. Often the train has lurched as it was about to strike the right key. The typewriter is on my knee, but I guess when a fellow is away from home it is better to have a typewriter on his knee than a blonde.

Thanks for the opportunity of securing a very fine impression of the work in Alaska, its growth, its accomplishments, and the fact that many fields are not encouraging so far as numerical growth is concerned. But it is as I have told the folks back in Tulsa---the work is being well handled in Alaska and the work in small villages and non-self-supporting congregations is just as important and needed as the work in America's remaining 48 states. Wherever there are souls it is worth the investment in dollars, and I have been talking up the need of greater giving to benevolences through our congregations.

Sincerely,

James L. Cottrell

*Dean H. Lewis*

REPORT ON ALASKA - SEPTEMBER 15-27 / 1958

I am making this report in two parts: the first is descriptive and contains an account of the activities and meetings in which I participated in Alaska, specifically related to preparation for the Alaska Preaching Mission for 1958. Within that descriptive narrative I shall from time to time step over into analysis and draw certain conclusions. The second part of the report consists of tentative recommendations arrived at as a result of my experience in Alaska. These come largely as a result of impressions gained and naturally cannot be tested by my own extensive experience or intensive analysis. It would be foolish for me to pose as an expert on Alaska, but it would be remiss not to recount strong impressions concerning the general mission of our Church there.

September 16-18, Tuesday evening to Thursday evening, were spent in attendance at the meeting of the Presbytery of Alaska in Craig and Klawock. My initial introduction to one of the problems in Southeastern Alaska came as the plane touched down briefly at Kasan, where our work has been abandoned. This village is practically gone, although the plane was met by a half dozen children and a few people are still around. The question of a service ministry without tangible hopes for self support immediately presented itself. At what point does one abandon a field and the people who are still left in the interests of the total economy of the Kingdom? It is a difficult question and one which many denominations seem to be answering by practically abandoning the whole concept of a nonprofit service ministry.

2. At the beginning of presbytery, there was a certain amount of confusion regarding my role in the presbytery meeting. I learned rather late that I was to open the presbytery with a popular meeting on Tuesday evening and that the presbytery itself had expected a workshop on evangelism in general rather than a discussion of the Preaching Mission in particular. I think this confusion resulted from bad communication principles involved in setting up my trip. Before I went to Alaska I had not been in contact with any of the men on the field directly. All arrangements were handled through the Headquarters Offices, as Dr. Jackman attempted to interpret the desires of the Alaskan Churches to me and my coming to the Alaskan Churches. I realize that this is a complex matter, but it does seem to me that there has been too much dependence on 156 Fifth Avenue for direction in the Alaskan Churches. I think the men there look to Headquarters for direction too often rather than exercising the initiative themselves. I believe this is at least partially a result of the ecclesiastical organization of our work there, which I will point out later.

On Wednesday morning I was permitted the whole morning to meet with the presbytery, and our discussion revolved around three major points: 1. The Preaching Mission program; 2. The General Assembly Report; 3. The general problems of pastors and congregations of the Presbytery of Alaska in making an effective continuing witness. I attempted to keep the structure informal and built around a discussion idea, and found several of the ministers ready to accept this type of structure but a number not ready, and none of the Elders willing to participate in this kind of experience. It was pointed out to me rather forcefully that this could be because of the communication barrier raised by language itself, and I think this conclusion



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is at least partially valid, although it does not seem to me to be valid in the case of the ministers. At this point and at other times during my stay in Alaska, it seemed to me I sensed a tendency to blame everything on the difficulty of communication and a half debilitating frustration in the face of that assumed difficulty. This is not the place to go into a theory of communication, but, in general, it seems to me that this difficulty is overstressed and that the problem is often not so much one of communication as it is one of concept in that many of the native churches have been built on a concept of "missionary paternalism" and for years natives were not expected really to bear responsibility in the determination of congregational life and program. This tendency seems to be on the decrease and as it dies out, I feel that the death of the concept will bring a resolution partially of the problem of communication. I think there was a certain frustration on the part of the ministers of presbytery in that they had been led to expect a general workshop on evangelism and I was not specifically prepared to lead them in that. They were quite charitable in accepting my deficiencies and I think the general result of the morning was good.

In the afternoon the presbytery recessed for meetings of committees and I was privileged to meet with our chairman, Dick Turner, and with several other ministers of presbytery who had responded to a general invitation to meet with me and the committee. After general discussion, the group moved into the specific area of future evangelism plans for the presbytery. I entered this discussion only on request from time to time to help clarify and to speak of ways in which the Division might be involved. In this small informal discussion there was a real enthusiasm and initiative obvious. As a result of this meeting, a specific program of evangelism was laid out and adopted by presbytery the next day. It was a program attempting to draw upon the resources of the presbytery itself to meet their own particular needs. The three resolutions drawn up and adopted were:

1. A supplementary preaching mission be conducted during the weeks from February 14 - March 1, 1959 by the men of the presbytery. The churches of the presbytery would work in pairs so that two men would be working together for a total of two weeks so that the two men in the paired men will spend one week in each of the churches. The expenses of this mission will be borne by the participating churches.
2. A ministers' conference in evangelism be conducted as a part of a fall presbytery meeting in 1959. A laymen's visitation training session would be conducted simultaneously with the conference.
3. Within two weeks after the ministers' conference an every church visitation for evangelism be conducted, using four teams consisting of one Elder and one minister for each team, spending two days in each church. The boats will be used if possible. The expenses of the visitation transportation will be borne by the churches in so far as possible and the Board of National Missions will be asked to share in the balance of the expense. Entertainment of the visiting teams will be provided by the local churches.



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On Thursday the presbytery met in the new Klawock Church for the final sessions. The closing session brought the dedication of the church in conjunction with a final Communion Service. It was a very fine and moving experience. I had no official responsibilities during this day, but enjoyed very much the informal visits and discussions with many of the men. The next two days were spent on the Anna Jackman on the trip back to Juneau with a stop at Petersburg.

In Juneau on Saturday afternoon I had the opportunity for a brief conference with Brian Cleworth, who had just returned from outside and visited in Northern Light and Memorial Churches. I was disturbed by what I heard concerning the plans of the Northern Light Church in the matter of relocation, but I am sure that this is not a matter for my analysis and recommendation. It would seem to me that the presbytery should exercise considerable authority in this matter and that the relocation of the church ought to be carefully controlled from the standpoint of the responsibility of the presbytery in the area of Juneau. I was a guest Saturday evening in the home of Ken and Betty Smith at Auke Lake and was invited to preach in the Chapel by the Lake on Sunday the 21st. Personally, I would be quite concerned to recommend that some steps be initiated as soon as possible to replace the manse at Auke Lake.

The afternoon brought an experience unusual at least to me in that I was delayed for one and one half hours at the airport because of a flat tire on an airplane. However, the tire was repaired and we were only an hour late into Anchorage. A combined youth rally had been scheduled at the Anchorage First Church and I addressed over 100 young people at that time. Fortunately, I had been in contact with the men of the Yukon Presbytery while still in Southeastern Alaska, so that I had advance notice of this meeting.

On Monday I met with the ministers of the Anchorage area - Ralph Weeks, Paul Evans, Frank Walkup and Mickey Campbell - to go over their preparation and plans for the Preaching Mission with them. I found that actually no planning had been done in terms of specific agreements and came away feeling that not too much in the way of coordinated planning would be done after I left. I do not feel that it is necessary for me to outline the situation at Anchorage, since I have talked specifically with Dr. Jackman about it. On Monday night we met with a group of about 15 laymen of First Church to talk about their specific part in the Preaching Mission. And, on Tuesday evening, I participated in a family night dinner at the Hillcrest Church and then in a special planning meeting with their laymen. Since this mission was to be a separate one and not dependent upon coordinated planning with the rest of the Anchorage area, I felt at the time that it would be a more successful experience, and it appears to me that the reports from the missionaries have indicated this to be the case.

I went to Fairbanks on Wednesday evening, after a trip up to Palmer, and on Thursday morning had a conference with Vic Alfsen and John Stokes. Planning for the mission in Fairbanks was difficult because Vic and John had not arrived at any common agreement concerning the purpose or nature of the mission and because of Vic's preoccupation with his eminent departure for work in Korea. In the evening we went with 20 elders to talk



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specifically about the Mission and their hopes for it and their thinking about it. At this point I was confronted concretely with a feeling that had been growing ever since I arrived in Alaska that most of the ministers and nearly all of the members of the churches were not viewing the Preaching Mission in terms of outreach evangelism but in terms of cultivating and strengthening the life of the church as it already existed. While this is a valid objective of evangelism, it certainly can never be the total task and would seem to me to be a departure of the original purpose of the Missions as they were begun. I would say that there was a general feeling in the places and among the men that I visited that the Missions were not in themselves an evangelistic tool but simply a part of the process through which a church is prepared to be evangelistic. There was very little inclination to do pre-Mission visitation or to do specific followup visitation. I attempted to communicate this interpretation to the Missioners on October 16 in Seattle so they would not be disappointed in not finding a primary outreach concern in most of the places they visited. On Friday I went with John Stokes down to the new lake campsite and attended and spoke at a family night dinner at the College Church on Friday evening, after which I left for Seattle.

In the matter of general evaluation, I think it is obvious that the general quality and dedication of the pastors of the Alaskan Churches is superior to that of most of our continental presbyteries. There are of course instances of weakness, but they are infrequent enough to be lost in the overall picture. There is a general feeling of frustration and defeatism in the villages and even a superficial knowledge of the economic, cultural and geographic features of Southeastern Alaska readily explains why this should be true. Of course, in the interior this is not true, since a really buoyant optimism seems to inform the thinking and work of most of our churches there. The pastors in Alaska are faithfully seeking to understand the situation and to evolve structures of church life and responsibility which will present a faithful witness to the gospel. In Southeastern Alaska in particular, there is a primary concern for the personal elements in evangelism. At this level I should think that our ministers there would need a great deal of assistance in matters of understanding personality and in matters of counseling theory and techniques. They are very deeply and intimately involved with individual persons in small and isolated communities and the evangelism of the church must take this direction. I think too that the leadership of our churches in these areas ought to be more intimately associated with the total patterns and problems of community life than is necessary in the more urbanized areas in the interior.

As to the Preaching Mission program itself, I think there was a general feeling in Southeastern Alaska that it ought to be suspended for a year or so. It is not that the men do not appreciate and have not benefited from the program but that they feel the resources and thinking of the presbytery ought to be directed toward producing an understanding and motivation for evangelism within the framework of their own life and thought. The recommendations of the Presbytery of Alaska reflect this attitude. Personally, I am in favor myself of suspending the Mission for one year and try again in 1960. I believe that the Missioners ought to be more carefully re-



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cruited for their ability to understand the structure and life of small churches in small communities and to communicate the gospel in essentially simple terms. Where the churches of the men selected to do the Missions are not able to meet the expenses, some appeal ought to be made to judicatories in order to permit us to send the best qualified men we can find on the Mission rather than simply the men who can afford to pay their own way. The Alaskan Churches have tended to become dependent upon the Preaching Mission and this should not happen. Too, I believe when the Preaching Mission program is reinstituted, whether it be next year or in years to come, one or two things should be done. Either, first, the Alaskan Churches ought to be faced with their failure to use the Missions as a primary form of outreach and asked to perform the actions necessary to insure the success of the Mission in those terms through visitation; or, two, the Mission should be reinterpreted as primarily a means of strengthening the life of the local congregation for its year round ministry in the community. Certainly, the Missioners ought not to go expecting one situation and find that the churches have expected another. My own personal feeling is that most Presbyterians are more at home with the concept of a congregation as the basic unit in evangelism rather than the concept of a "special service" evangelism, although it is quite true that a prepared and disciplined congregation could well use the appearance of a visiting minister as a part of its total impact on the community in which it serves.

So far as my impressions generally go, there are two or three things which I think ought to be seriously considered:

1. I believe that Alaska should become a synod. The relationship of the presbyteries to the Synod of Washington is a source of frustration and irritation to the men and the churches. It is not a viable relationship ecclesiastically, and the lack of synod structure seems to me to be one of the factors inhibiting the initiative and promoting dependence of the presbyteries on Headquarters administration. I do not think Alaska ought to be required to meet the Constitutional requirement of a three presbytery structure for synod status, but that the General Assembly should take action to create a Constitutional exemption at this point and permit Alaska to become a synod with two presbyteries. I believe the action to create a synod would strengthen the feeling of responsibility in Alaska and provide a much more effective channel of communication for the Alaskan Churches with the total mission of the Church through our denominational structure.
2. I think we should move cautiously but consciously to accelerate the demise of a "moralistic" interpretation of the gospel in native areas. That this is breaking down is evident, it seems to me. This is a very complex matter, demanding sympathetic and skillful handling, but it seems to me to be very important for the future of our Church in Alaska.
3. I believe that some concerted attack should be made on the problem of loneliness and isolation in Southeast Alaska. I



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think this should be done within the terms of service of the men and not simply by providing more flexible furlough provisions. My own feeling is that Brian Cleworth should have a five place amphibious airplane for his use. That would permit him to arrange his itinerary in such ways that he could pick up ministers and their wives for a day or two and drop them down for visits with other ministers' families in the isolated areas. I feel that some such provision is extremely important.

4. I believe that we ought to continue and expand our concept of a service ministry in Alaska. We must not allow ourselves to become trapped by those who want to measure the impact of the Church in terms of its cost or those who want to concentrate solely on areas of high potential. This would be untrue to the basic nature of the Church's mission. Specifically, this seems to indicate to me that the boat ministry ought to be continued, using both of the available boats, and that our Church should be alert for the possibilities of moving into some of the smaller villages as or if other mainline denominations abandon them.
5. It would seem to me to be important for the Church to acquire another site in Fairbanks closer to the present building development than the outlying site now owned by the presbytery is. At the same time, more land ought to be acquired at the present outlying site.
6. I also believe that we ought to move as rapidly as possible toward a fully accredited four year college at Sheldon Jackson in Sitka.

Sincerely,

*Dean H. Lewis*  
Dean H. Lewis

DHL:hm  
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DEC 10 1958

DEC 10 1958

## KENMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2 EAST HAZELTINE AVENUE

KENMORE 17 N. Y.

TELEPHONE RIVERSIDE 7600

JAY LUMAN BUSH  
LEO A. GATES  
MINISTERS

JEAN S. SHEPARD  
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JANICE P. FOX  
MARGUERITE A. ROSENSTEELE  
CHURCH SECRETARIES

PETER D. VAN DYCK  
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

December 8, 1958

Dr. Earl Jackman  
Presbyterian National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Earl:

Please let me apologize for this delay in sending you my report on the 1958 Alaska Mission. The usual heavy burden of the Every Member Canvass plus a good bout with the flu have combined to put me behind in everything.

### MY PERSONAL REACTION

This was a tremendous experience for me. Needless to say it will constitute a standout memory. I am most grateful to have been asked to take part and have marked it down as a never-to-be-forgotten experience in my life. The purpose of the mission was a challenge in itself. The fellowship with those who also took the trip was stimulating. New friendships were made and old ones renewed. It was an enjoyable experience as well as a busy two weeks. There was "fun" in it as well as the work. To be guests in the homes of the Alaskan people and to be a part of the life of a community imparted a unique aspect to the Mission. My personal reaction is a most favorable one. It is my conviction that, if possible, the Alaska Missions should be continued from year to year.

### MISSIONARY PERSONNEL

Earl Jackman was expansive in his praise of the missionary personnel in Alaska. Frankly I took this with a grain of salt. Naturally he would build up the personnel he had helped to select. It was somewhat of a surprise to have left Alaska with the conviction that his praise was unduly modest. That which impressed me most in my visit to Alaska was the missionary personnel. These men and their wives are exception people. It was my belief that these missionaries would have no difficulty rating in the top 20% of our denomination. This 20% figure I regard as a conservative one. Their ability, dedication and Christian character made me proud indeed that they represent our church in the pioneer land.

### ALASKA AS A FIELD OF SER- VICE

Although we had been briefed very thoroughly on the needs of Alaska it still came as a surprise to see with my own eyes the tremendous needs of this area. I refer to the specific needs which the Christian Gospel and Church can meet. I was amazed at the number of persons who were non-Christians and even more amazed at the many who had no concept pertaining to the church and its message. They seemed to have no background for Christianity. Christ and His teachings appeared to be something and someone completely separate from their world. We certainly need to enlarge every aspect of Christianity in this area, not merely churches, but hospitals, schools, social services, etc. We need to infiltrate the "whole" community.

### EVANGELISM REPORT

It is satisfying to be able to say a good word for the Division of Evangelism and its efforts to prepared us for the Alaska Mission. I believe everything was done that could be done by the Division to ready us for our primary work in Alaska. Assigned to the First Presbyterian Church of Wrangell



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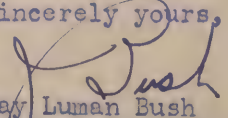
## EVANGELISM REPORT CONTI.

Services were held each evening in the church except Saturday. I preached each evening for decisions. One decision came through preaching and five others with visitation in the homes in which the challenge of Christ and His way of life were stressed. I cannot speak for Wrangell, but with the other members of these six families on which to draw plus the expressed interest of additional people 20 to 30 decisions could well be reached. At least THIS would be the result in the Buffalo, New York area. This was only an eight day visit, but it was my feeling that much could be done to reach many more non-Christians in Wrangell. In a village of around 1,000 persons it would be difficult to build a large church, but I did think that the Wrangell church had opportunity for sizable growth. The current membership of the Wrangell church is 137. With a strong program of Evangelism the membership of the church ought to be able to double. I stress that this is the evaluation of but one man and he lived in the community but one week.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE MISSIONS

1. That the Seattle Briefing in Evangelism deal more with techniques and less on the Biblical basis of Evangelism and the theology of it all. We are rather convinced of this or we would not be on the Alaska Mission. We want to know "how" to do the job.
2. One of my surprises on the Alaska Mission was how little the missionary personnel seemed to know about Friendship and Visitation Evangelism. They may have known much about it, but perhaps did not wish to discuss it having just been through a Preaching Mission. I did not find many ministers making much use of their laymen in visitation and friendship evangelism. Possibly I did not speak to the right ones. If I may, I would like to suggest a School of Evangelism for the Alaska ministers in which the Biblical and theological basis were kept at a minimum and the "how" received primary emphasis. This School should probably be held in Anchorage and the ministers themselves together with laymen constitute New Life Teams for both Friendship and Commitment Calling. Those who instruct this School ought to be carefully selected from the States and should be ministers and laymen having been doing Friendship and Commitment Calling for a long period of time with outstanding results. The Rev. Harry R. DeYoung might be one such minister.
3. I would like to suggest that the next Alaska Mission begin one day earlier and end one day earlier. About a dozen of us came with an ace of not getting out of Alaska in time to reach our churches for Sunday, Nov. 2nd. To have missed three Sundays in a row during Stewardship month would have been most unfortunate. An added day if it were needed would be a superb cushion to counteract the bi-weekly Alaskan gales!!!

Sincerely yours,

  
Jay Luman Bush  
Kenmore Presbyterian Church  
Kenmore 17, N.Y.



Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1958 - Left Cleveland Airport via United Airlines at 9:30 a.m. My brother, Don, was on this leg of the trip to Chicago with me. Left Chicago via Northwest Airlines at 12:35 (45 min. late) (Chicago time) and flew in good clear weather all the way to Portland. 1777 air miles from Chicago. Crossed the Mississippi River at 1:30. Enjoyed one of Mary's good sandwiches she had sent along. Took a nap for an hour. Awoke at 2:30 to the announcement that Watertown, S.D. was on the left. The land still looks flat - cut into squares of farms. At 3 o'clock the Missouri River appeared on the left. We cross it at Bismarck, N.D. Many small lakes can be seen. See Long Lake. Now cross over Bismarck and Missouri at 3:12. It looks wide and shallow winding northward. The terrain is beginning to appear hilly. Color - barren brown earth with hills having a purple tinge. Still a lot of rectangular and square farm land. At 3:40 took pictures of the Badlands along the Little Missouri River.

Doing some reading of preparatory materials sent to me by the Department of Evangelism. Announcement made that we are flying at 20,000 feet. We are about 100 miles from the Canadian border and approaching the Rocky Mountains. At 5 o'clock we are over Great Falls, Montana. Lots of patchwork farm lands again. Cross that long Missouri River here for the second time.

Now enter the Lewis Range of the Rockies just west of Great Falls. Highest point marked on the air map is 9,200 feet. White peaks of Glacier National Park seen dimly in distant North.

We are gradually losing our afternoon race with the sun as evidenced by longer shadows being cast by the ranges below. At 6 o'clock we crossed the Snake River just north of Lewiston, Idaho. Now we turn southwest over Idaho and are heading for the scenic Columbia River gorge which we will follow over 100 miles into Portland. I remember driving this in 1941. In twenty minutes we are over Walla Walla, Washington, where the Snake River enters the Columbia River. In the Northwest 100 miles away appear the big three mountains of the State of Washington - Mt. Adams, 12,307 ft. is the nearest, Mt. Ranier, 14,408 ft. on the right, and Mt. St. Helens, 9,671 ft. on the left. Saw very little of the Columbia River as it was right under our plane and the evening haze gathering down low. We arrived at Portland at 7:15 or 4:15 Pacific Coast Time. Beautiful new terminal building. A lot of fighter jets are located at this field. Left Portland at 4:30 and got a few good pictures of Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Ranier with the evening sun shining on the upper slopes of them above the clouds. Very bumpy ride coming down through the clouds to Seattle. The street lights of the city are coming on as we arrived at 5:20. Temperature 62°. Greeted at the beautiful Seattle-Tacoma Air Terminal by hearing my name paged to report to Northwest ticket counter. It was a call from Jim Moore in Aberdeen, making sure of my arrangements to fly there the next morning.

Settled at the Stewart Hotel by 7 o'clock; however, it is 11 p.m. Cleveland time by which I started the day so got a bite to eat, mailed a letter home, and retired.

Wednesday, Oct. 15. - Got up at 6 a.m. so as to have plenty of time to be at the West Coast Airlines office at 8:30. Went by bus to Boeing Field, six miles out, to catch the plane. Saw the huge Boeing Aircraft Plant across the field with the new planes outside, not yet painted for airlines. At departure time, 9:30, it was announced that high fog over the city was too low and the plane would be loaded at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport. So boarded a small bus again and drove 8 miles further. Very mild weather. I see in the Seattle newspaper that the temperature at Anchorage yesterday was a low of 30°, a high of 44°. Finally depart at 10:05. Beautiful sight riding above the soft blanket of clouds in the morning sunshine. Flying at 4000 ft. we see on the right the peaks of the Olympic Mountains which are a little higher than our plane. Arrive at Hoquiam Airstrip at 10:50. It is built right in the Gray's Harbor Bay. Jim Moore, a classmate from Princeton, was there to meet me. We then visited his church at nearby Aberdeen. Had mooseburgers for lunch; also cranberries which escaped from being canned in the kitchen; and for dessert we had ice cream with delicious blackberry syrup.

After lunch we drove out along the Bay to Westport to see the Pacific Ocean and some small fishing boats. Also took some movies of cranberries being harvested in the fields. Had baked salmon for dinner, one which Jim caught last summer weighing 12 pounds. Talked a lot about family camping which the Moores do every summer in Idaho. They have a tom-cat which looks exactly like our cat - tiger marking with white feet. They also have a dog and two ducks. Oh, yes, five wonderful children.

Aberdeen is about 20,000 population with a total of approximately 35,000 people in the Tri-city harbor area. Main industry is lumber mills. Saw logs



being floated in the river and the bay. Summer recreation (salmon fishing) is probably second in importance for business.

Thursday, Oct. 16 - This morning we went through the Aberdeen Plywood Corporation and I got some pictures of big logs coming into the mill. Mostly cottonwood is used, also fir, hemlock, etc. These grow rapidly around here where it is moist with about 80 inches of rainfall per year. This has been a dry year with only 45 inches so far. The climate is mild - cool in the summer and mild in the winter.

Flow back to Seattle. Saw Dr. Jackman, Board Secretary in charge of Alaska. Had lunch with Bill Smith, Jay Bush, and Bruce Evans, all from seminary days. Rooming here at the Stewart Hotel with Jim Halsey who was in seminary with Gordon Blasius, my assistant. Was able to get some more pictures of Mt. Ranier this morning flying in from Aberdeen. It was 50 miles away but quite clear. And now off to our briefing session with Dr. Jackman at 2 o'clock. Lawrence Fisher just handed me a note from Aunt Lucille in his church at Santa Barbara, California. The briefing session continued all afternoon and in to the evening until about 10:30. Among the speakers were Dr. Ralph Turnbull, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, and the Rev. Dean Lewis, West Coast area representative for the Department of Evangelism, and Dr. Jackman, the expert on Alaska. (See full notes on his talk.)

Friday, Oct. 17 - Up at 5:30 and ride to the airport in thick fog. Taking along 60 doz. fresh eggs for Barrow. We are pooling our baggage weight and so have some extra, hence Dr. Jackman sends fresh eggs to Barrow. The bus driver gives us some interesting information about Seattle. He points out the Smith Tower which is 42 stories high and is the tallest building in the Northwest. Of the 832,000 population, 67,000 work at Boeing. The new 707 Jets are made there. Seattle has the largest number of pleasure boats of any port in the country. After formal picture taking of our group by the airline photographer, we boarded the Pacific Northern Airline Constellation at 7:30. The morning sun broke through for a few minutes but by the time we were at the end of the runway ready for the take-off, the fog had rolled in again and we sat there until after 8 o'clock when the pilot returned us to the ramp and we got off to wait. We were called back on the plane at 9:10. I sat on the left side over the wing with Dr. Jackman. We are really hungry now for breakfast to be served. Took off at 9:30. Seattle is about 2000 miles from Cleveland. A direct flight ahead to Anchorage from Seattle would be about 1450 miles, but we will be stopping at Annette and Juneau so it will be 1500 miles. Then another 350 miles to Fairbanks.

Can't see much below. Over Vancouver Island the Captain announces that we will be flying at 18,000 ft. Mailed some of my movie films at Seattle. Breakfast is finally served at 10 o'clock. Traveling at 345 miles per hour. Nothing to see so took a nap. Arrived at the Annette Airstrip at 12 noon. Bleak hills all around. Dr. Jackman and eight of our team of members get off here to visit Ketchikan. We learned later that they were "socked in" there due to bad weather for an extra day. The seven others of us continued northward. I heard one man say that it's the first time he ever stopped at Annette when it wasn't raining. As we got back on the plane at 12:25, the rains came. We now have a rough flight with the clouds obstructing the view. Once in a while, we can see hundreds of islands of all sizes.

As we come down under the clouds approaching Juneau, we see our first glacier. Arrive at Juneau at 1:30. Took lots of pictures of the beautiful Mendenhall Glacier near the airport. Typical day here - rainy. Leave three more of our team here and depart at 2:35. Rough riding for half an hour. Got another good view of Mendenhall Glacier as we were leaving the airport. Now up in the clouds realizing that if it were a clear day we would be seeing some of the most beautiful country in the world - snowcapped mountains and numerous glaciers below. Hope the weather is clearer on our return flight over this area next week. Lunch at 3:15. We are still behind schedule, but remember that Dr. Jackman warned us that in Alaska you have to be "adaptable."

Stopped briefly at Cordova at 4:20. Rainy. Sebastian, the harmonica virtuoso, got off our plane. We are also carrying a crated chimpanzee in the front seat. Leave Cordova at 4:45. The clouds soon begin to clear away and we see now lots of the beautiful white mountains and another of the many glaciers. One is called Columbia Glacier. Flying at 9,000 ft. Another glacier, twin type of two rivers. The pilot also circled over a dew-line installation. The glaciers are beautiful in the sun. We arrive at Anchorage just before 6 p.m. Temperature 38° and a light touch of snow on the ground. Met at the airport by Rev. Paul Evans, Rev. Ralph Weeks, Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Frank Walkup. Had a gift of two hours when they told us we were now on Alaskan Standard Time which is two hours after Pacific Time.



Went to Ralph Weeks' home for a brief review of next week's duties. Had dinner at the home of Rev. Paul Evans, minister of the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, where I will be preaching next week. His wife's name is Norma, and they have five children: Carol, 7th grade; Paul, 5th grade; Kathy, 3rd grade; Peter, 5 years; and baby Christine, 1 year.

Reset my watch from 9:30 to 7:30. Now ready for our flight to Fairbanks, departing at 7:45. Finally left at 8:40, one hour late. These airlines in Alaska fly when they are ready, not when they are scheduled. We flew on a DC 6 called the Golden Nugget Special. The captain announced that we would be flying at 11,000 feet and the weather report at Fairbanks is snow.

Arrived at Fairbanks at 10 p.m., or midnight by our Seattle time with which we started the day. We were met at the airport by Rev. Victor Alfsen, and the Rev. John Stokes. Went to Alfsen's for a snack. Learned that milk is 40¢ per quart in this area. Roomed at Hotel Nordale with Dr. Lawrence Fisher, First Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara, California, with whom I will be serving in Anchorage next week.

Saturday, Oct. 18 - Cost of hotel room was \$6.25 each. Temperature outside was 20°. It had been 5° a few days previous. A beautiful snow was falling with 8 to 10 inches already on the ground. The atmosphere is dry and actually feels warmer than when we were at Anchorage. We wished each other "Merry Christmas." Walked up the street a block for breakfast. Juice 50¢, poached eggs and bacon \$1.75, milk 25¢. We read in the paper that the long distance flyer from Tokyo had landed yesterday afternoon at Cordova just two hours after we had been there.

John Stokes tells me that his parents live in Lakewood, Ohio, telephone AC 1-6528, and his sister lives near Bay Village in Westlake, Ohio, Mrs. G. Robert Downer, 1706 Canterbury Road, Westlake (TR 1-0833). John drove the Alaskan Highway last summer when he was "outside" (in the states). He said the road was not too bad as long as you did not drive over 50 miles per hour. It is a five days journey from Seattle.

Fairbanks has a population of about 10,000 people with 37 various churches. Bill Wiseman will stay here at First Presbyterian Church and College Community Presbyterian Church where they have a very full speaking schedule lined up for him. The Rev. Charles Hoffmeister from California will leave very early tomorrow morning for Barrow where he will preach next week.

Got pictures of the new First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks, which is one of the five self-supporting Presbyterian Churches in Alaska. Met Mr. Horton who is a lay preacher to the Eskimos at a special service every Sunday afternoon; about 40 Eskimos attend. John then drove us out to see some gold dredging (see leaflet). We also visited the College Community Presbyterian Church of which he is pastor. They have a nice new manse. The church was started by Bert Bengle (see folder). John Stokes was wounded in battle during the last war. Before the medics got to him, he remembers vowing to God that if the Lord would let him live, he would do whatever God wanted him to do. Later in the hospital he was in a bed next to a Christian boy who was reading his Bible. There John learned of Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He never gave up his vow. He attended Princeton Seminary and is now serving effectively as a missionary in the town of College.

College has 1,200 population, is near Fairbanks, and is the home of the University of Alaska. John has organized a group students who have taken the name, Nu Cyg (Northernmost University Christian Youth Group). It meets weekly with 20 average attendance.

John Stokes' wife was from the Hollywood Presbyterian Church where she was secretary to Dr. Louis Evans. During the Alaskan Constitutional Convention in 1955 at the University of Alaska, she served as the official stenotypist for the convention. The manse requires three panes of glass in the wintertime to withstand the 40 to 50 degrees below zero. In late December the sun is above the horizon less than 3 hours per day. In the summer it hides slightly below the horizon in the North for about 1 hour; never dark. We asked John's wife how she liked Alaska and she said that it was pretty hard the first winter but after that she learned to like it.

The University of Alaska has 700 students with 500 living on campus. New buildings are replacing the old. The University is considered tops in geophysics, mining, etc., relating to Alaska's natural resources. Forty percent of the students are from the states. The Constitutional Convention for Alaska was held here Nov. 1, 1955 and lasting for 75 days. Dr. Rollin Armstrong, president of Sheldon Jackson Junior College, was elected as one of the 55 delegates. He was elected without any campaigning. Because his name begins with A, he was the first to sign



the new Constitution. We were told that during the deliberations, a report was brought in by a committee which had deleted words referring to Diety, Dr. Armstrong was not at the convention that day, and someone arose and said that he felt that there was one gentleman who, if he were present, would have something significant to say regarding this matter. So action was delayed until Dr. Armstrong returned to the convention the next day. After he spoke, the convention reversed the recommendation of the committee and the reference to Diety remained in the Constitution. Dr. Armstrong served on the original drafting committee of the convention. We had lunch at the University cafeteria and later, met the president.

In the afternoon we visited a Coffee for Republicans given at the home of Mayor Hoagland, an orthopedic surgeon (one of the ten best in America). We met Mrs. Wien of the Wien-Alaska Airlines, who spoke on Lowell Thomas' TV film of Alaska recently.

Next we visited our Presbyterian Hospitality House which is sponsored by the Board of National Missions. Its purpose is to serve Eskimo girls who come into Fairbanks and get into trouble or who need a home. It was started by Mrs. Rasmussen who was formerly with the City Health Department. The house is making a small dent in a big problem, but is doing good work.

We were returned to the airport by 4 o'clock by John Stokes. The temperature had been 19° all day and snowing. It was a good thing John had big high boots to loan to Larry Fisher and me. John told us that the vote by Alaskans for Statehood was 6 to 1. He indicated that some of the benefits of Statehood would be (1) Some improvement in the over-all educational program, (2) Better Liquor Control, of which there is practically none at present, (3) Greatly needed reduction in freight rates which will now come under the Interstate Commerce Commission, (4) Fishing traps will become illegal, (5) Alaska will develop better and more rapidly when control and policy planning is local rather than by the Department of Interior in Washington, and (6) more revenue will come to the state of Alaska from furs, mining, oil leases, etc. rather than to the United States Treasury which does return a part in benefits, and (7) the judicial system will be improved. Everyone seems to agree that there will be at least five years of adjustment ahead for the new state of Alaska. The people feel that their new constitution is one of the the very best that has ever been written. Six women and fifty-nine men were the elected delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

We flew back to Anchorage on the Golden Nugget special in time to have a pot-luck dinner with the church officers and their wives. Larry Fisher went with the group from First, Faith, and Woodland Park Churches. I went to the Government Hill section of town to the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church. This evening provided an opportunity to become acquainted and to speak briefly on churchmanship. I was given a room for the week at the apartment of the clerk of Session and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur LeVerne Jess, 1427 Bluff Road, Anchorage.

Sunday, Oct. 19 - The Hillcrest Church is small and can seat only 130 people. At 9:45 a.m. I spoke to the Sunday School and presented the scroll on the Twenty-third Psalm which had been made and sent with me by the Primary Department of our Bay Presbyterian Church School. Attendance was 134 including 13 in an Adult Class which was taught by an attorney, Bill King, who served also as Sunday School Organist and is an elder in the church. A couple who introduced themselves were Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ross, of Avon Lake, Ohio, which is adjacent to Bay Village. They will be returning in two years. In church at 11 o'clock, I preached to a congregation of 92 people which is good for this church which has a membership of only 49 active members. Hillcrest Church was started in a quonset hut as a mission early in the year 1951. It was organized on November 30, 1952. The little church, 20 x 50 ft. in size was prefabricated and shipped from Portland. It was erected in one day on January 1, 1955. Work began at 6 a.m. and continued until 8 p.m. when the church was dedicated. During this time there was only three hours of daylight and the temperature was 20° below zero. One hundred seventy five men from the Presbyterian Churches of Anchorage and from the Elmendorf Air Base helped with the dramatic construction. The growing Sunday School used this building as well as a nearby quonset hut until a good Christian Education Building was added in the spring of 1958. Including the \$22,000 manse, the Presbyterian Board of Missions and the ministry to Servicemen has invested about \$100,000.00 in Hillcrest Presbyterian Church property and buildings. Hillcrest Presbyterian Church is well-located just off the Elmendorf Air Force Base and is in the midst of a multiple housing area of 51 buildings with 20 suites each. Quonset huts in the area were built by the railroad for housing families of its workers. These are to be replaced within the next two years by permanent homes. A recent survey indicated that 3000 school children are within walking distance of the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church. The Southern Baptist have a church nearby which is larger. The work is quite difficult here due to the fact that most residents are connected with either Elmendorf Air Force Base or Fort Richardson Army Base and are there-



fore temporary. Nevertheless, the need for the church in this strategic location is great. On Sunday evening, I spoke to 25 young people who attended the Youth Meeting; and I preached at the evening church service to a congregation of similar size. The church does not have a regular Sunday evening service usually.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, I trained and called with some of the members who were interested in Visitation Evangelism. The first night we had five teams and the second night we had four teams. Thirty visits were reported with good results.

The salary for the missionary pastor at Hillcrest Presbyterian Church is the customary minimum for Washington Synod of \$4,000 plus 1/3 for higher cost of living. He is also given \$70 per month car allowance. He pays his own utilities. He heats the manse with oil and some months cost \$50. Temperature at Anchorage sometimes reaches 20 to 25 degrees below Zero. The local congregation has raised several thousand dollars towards the church and Christian Education building. They pay for the operating expenses of the church and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the missionary's salary.

Monday, Oct. 20 - We visited Faith Presbyterian Church with Rev. Lowell Campbell (see Lawrence Fisher's notes for data). Lowell was five years as missionary at Gamble on St. Lawrence Island. Has been here 18 months. The church has only a small sanctuary and basement. Two Sunday School classes meet in a doctor's office next door. Lowell is a Phi Beta Kappa. Temperature was 14° Sunday night and 24° on Monday.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 - The two-day snow storm is over and it looks like a good day of sunshine so we leave at 8 a.m. for a trip 40 miles up the Matanuska Valley to Palmer. As we go through Fort Richardson Army Base and Elmendorf Air Force Base, we see the "Kremlin" which is the headquarters of the Air Service Command. F-102 jet fighters are coming and going all the time. The beautiful Chugach Mountains are to the east of Anchorage. They are 6000 to 8000 feet. Mountains are on both sides of the Matanuska Valley which is very productive but does not begin to meet the needs of a city like Anchorage with its 100,000 population (including the military). We visit Valley Presbyterian Hospital at Palmer (see Dr. Jackman's notes). We also visited the Presbyterian Church at Palmer which is known as the "Church of a Thousand Logs" built by Bert Bengle (see back of church bulletin). Palmer has about 4000 population. The church has 300 members. We also drove 13 miles further to visit the Wasilla Presbyterian Church and its new manse.

Kings Lake Camp is a beautiful spot. It is used for Senior Hi Youth Conferences, Junior Hi and Junior camps in the summer. Returned to the Anchorage suburb of Spenard to speak at the business men's luncheon.

In the afternoon we saw the Woodland Park Presbyterian Church where Ralph Weeks is minister; 188 members, 300 in Sunday School of which 70 meet in the manse basement across the street. Hopes to become self-supporting by 1960. A woman from Chicago visited Alaska in the early days of the work of Bert Bengle and became the donor of the chancel furnishings. She has also given pews, baptismal fount, pulpit chairs to the Presbyterian churches at Tok and Big Delta. The manse across the street was built by volunteer labor. Had moose steak for dinner at the Evan's through the kindness of Mrs. Strong of the church; and strawberry shortcake. While out on our visitation program this evening we see a beautiful display of the Northern Lights, beautiful light green, lasting about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

Wednesday, October 22 - The sun is bright with a typical clear sky again today but the the air is snapping cold. The ground is still covered with snow. Temperature about 5° above last night. Mrs. Robert Nichol, formerly of Bay Village, phoned me. Her husband is warden of the Federal Prison Camp here; I am going to have lunch with them on Friday. Today Larry Fisher and I are taken to the local Lion's Club for lunch where we see a film and learn about the first oil well in Alaska, and saw a sample of the first crude oil which came from it last week on the Kenai Peninsula. Drilled by the Richfield Oil Co. it cost about \$7 million (same as our original cost of Alaska) and it is estimated that it will produce about 900 barrels per day. Oil was hit at 1200 feet and ran out at 1500 feet.

Then at 1 o'clock we rushed to the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church where Larry and I both spoke at a joint meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Anchorage. About 75 ladies were represented from the four churches. Tonight, the men of the four churches had a pot-luck dinner at which we spoke; then our sextet, consisting of the local ministers and Larry and me, and the president of Sheldon Jackson, that makes seven, well, we sang three songs. Had a good time. Your letters in two days. Fast service.



Thursday, October 23 - This morning I was able to do some shopping and got clipped for a haircut at \$2.50. Went to Rotary luncheon where Larry gave an excellent talk to the men on "Freedom Under God." A delegation of business men representing the Chamber of Commerce of Maine was also present. In the afternoon we visited the Native Service Hospital, typical of many in Alaska which serve the Indians and Eskimos only. There we met a fine old 82 year old elder from the church on St. Lawrence Island. (See Larry's notes.)

Had dinner with Capt. and Mrs. Jack Ballard and their two little boys. He is personnel man at the air base. They are a fine Christian young couple from California and the mid-west. She has been playing the organ at church, and Jack has been directing the choir as well as teaching the Junior High Sunday School class. He does oil paintings and sings in the Community Chorus (see letter she wrote to her home church). Rushed to the church for our preaching service at which about 40 attended.

Friday, October 24 - Weather sunny, temperature 15° to 20°. Had lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Nicholl at the Federal Prison Camp. Then Frank Walkup, minister of First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage, took us on a fast 50 mile drive down the Seward Highway to see the Portage Glacier. Coming back, we ran out of gas while exploring Colorado Creek and arrive home late for dinner. I was entertained at the home of Major and Mrs. Maynard Cusworth. His picture was in Presbyterian Life last October. Wonderful fellow. They have four children. The boy played his first cornet solo for Sunday School Sunday morning. He is in fifth grade and just learning. His mother is president of the Women's Association and teaches ceramics at the air base. They will be returning to the States in the summer of 1959. Rushed to the church for preaching service.

Saturday, October 25 - Had a late breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Jess. She did up my laundry for travel next week. Visited the air strip with Mrs. Cusworth and saw her husband and the inside of the huge cargo planes (C C 123) which he flies. Lunch with the missionary, Paul Evans, and his family. In the afternoon I got some final pictures.

Saturday evening we attended a rally of the young people of the Presbyterian Churches of Anchorage, with an attendance of about 100. Dr. Rollin Armstrong, president of Sheldon Jackson Junior College, showed pictures of the college, after which Larry and I both spoke.

Sunday, October 26 - This was a full day beginning at 8 a.m. with a breakfast with the men of Hillcrest Church. I spoke to them on "Don't be a Secret Disciple." Later I spoke briefly during the opening worship of Sunday School and then talked to the 24 members of the Junior Hi Co-ed Class. Then preached in church. I closed by asking for a show of hands from all who would promise to read a portion of the Bible every day.

Spent Sunday afternoon packing. The weather is clouding in. Hope it keeps clear enough for us to see the beautiful southeast part of Alaska during the next four days (wishful thinking!).

Our greatest thrill and satisfaction came at the closing service of the Preaching Mission on Sunday evening when all churches combined in the First Presbyterian Church downtown. A fine youth choir of over 70 young people over-flowed the choir section. Nearly every seat in the congregation was taken. Paul Evans presided. After Larry preached, I preached briefly and led in the service of re-consecration. We had a good response.

Monday, October 27 - Cloudy, temperature 29 degrees. Up at 5:20 a.m. - Paul Evans picked me up at 6 o'clock for the airport where we met Larry and Dr. Armstrong. All four local ministers were there to see us off. Leave at 7 o'clock; baggage 72 lbs. so I used some of Larry's extra 10 lbs. Breakfast on the plane. Flying above clouds so don't see much. Will make up the two hours time zone difference we lost on this flight last week. Stop at Cordova at 8:05 and Rollin Armstrong got off there. Saw two big glaciers as we were coming in to the airport, but not enough light, as yet, to photograph. Now heading for Juneau. The weather does not clear until about 11 o'clock. Saw Mt. Logan, 19,850 ft, in the far distance.

In figuring up travel distances, I now realize that Anchorage was 3500 miles from home and was about half-way to Tokyo. And now we are able to see beautiful Mt. Fairweather and got some good pictures of it. There are many, many more glaciers. Arrived at Juneau at 12:10, cloudy but no rain. Had lunch at the airport and saw five other fellows of our team. The temperature is considerably warmer here in the southeast section of Alaska.



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At 1:30 we took off in a PBV amphibian to fly 100 miles to Sitka on the Pacific coast. In clouds most of the way.

The Sheldon Jackson campus consists of 325 acres. The school has its own 55 ft. boat for travel by the Gospel team, the basketball team and choir, etc. The school was established 81 years ago by Sheldon Jackson, pioneer missionary to Alaska. Thirty-four members make up the faculty and staff. Twelve to forty degree temperature during the winter, little snow and seldom zero. The Dean of the Faculty, the Rev. Fred Koeschman, was formerly superintendent of schools in Fairbanks and in Anchorage before training for the ministry. The school has a home economics practice house. The motto for the school is "Competent Christian Citizens." Condit House is a new dormitory for the junior college students. A new library was completed recently. Every student must work 10 hours a week in the kitchen, laundry, print shop or on the campus, etc. Cost is \$300 board and room, plus \$40 fees. College students pay an additional \$100 per semester. About 100 students are in high school. The students have all seasonal sports. Six of the native Indian boys went out last Saturday and shot five deer. The school has an excellent choir of 52 voices. On a little hill just back of the campus is a national cemetery, supposed to be the only one west of the Mississippi. We visited the radio station KSEW, which is owned and operated by the Board of National Missions. I left with the program manager a tape recording of several numbers by our Junior Choir and Adult Choir.

We visited the new First Presbyterian Church which was dedicated the night before. It is beautiful with natural wood interior. The men of the congregation did most of the work. The cost of materials was estimated at \$125,000. We then visited the Anna Jackman, one of the two boats owned and operated by the Board of National Missions for reaching isolated lumber camps and fishing villages. Met the skipper, Dick Nelson, and his family and young Bill Zeiger who is an ordained minister. It is a new all-steel 65 foot boat, completely equipped for carrying 75 passengers or sleeping 35. We also had time to visit the St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in the center of town. Had a good chat with the priest who says their branch of the church has nothing to do with the present Orthodox Church in Russia.

We had dinner with the students in the dormitory and coffee afterwards with the faculty. Then went to the radio station for an interview. Visited Mrs. Armstrong, wife of the president. Went to the church in the evening to hear the Sheldon Jackson Choir and a medical missionary from Elat, Cameroun, whose name was Dr. Sandilands.

Tuesday, October 28 - Larry and I were housed in one of the hospital rooms overnight. Had breakfast with the students at 7 a.m., followed by Morning Chapel at 7:45 led by Rev. Van Pelt, Bible instructor at Sheldon Jackson. Weather is moderate this morning with a light rain beginning to fall.

Learned that Alaska has 60 major airports and 300 secondary fields. Sixteen percent of all amphibian or float planes of the United States are in Alaska. There are 8000 miles of airways. Bad weather postponed our flight back to Juneau. If we are to be "socked in" this is as good a place as any for Sitka is an interesting little fishing town of three or four thousand people and the Junior college is here. Went window shopping in the afternoon. More rain.

Took some pictures of students in the dining room. First slide - At end of table is Caleb Pugowiyi, a tenth grade boy from Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island. He is an Eskimo. Girl at left is Aleut and Russian. Boy at right is Herman Kitka who is a Tlingit (pronounced "klinkit") Indian. In the second picture from right to left - a 10th grade Eskimo boy from Barrow. Harvey Kitka, a 10th grade Tlingit Indian from Sitka. A 9th grade girl from Kassan, whose father is a fisherman who came up from Seattle eight years ago. The reason that this girl is at S. J. is that there is no high school at Kassan. The last girl is a 9th grader, half-Tlingit, from Hoonah. The waiter is a 9th grade Eskimo boy from Bethel, northwest of Fairbanks. The Kitka boys are the 4th generation of their family to be educated at Sheldon Jackson. They live in Sitka. It is unusual for local students to attend S. J. since there is a public high school there.

Another walk down the one main street and back. Retired early, an opportunity which we really appreciated.

Wednesday, October 29 - Temperature 50 degrees. Light rain and high winds continue. But not as bad as yesterday. After chapel we were called by Alaska Coastal Airlines to be ready to take the early flight back to Juneau at 9:30. Flew on a Gruman Goose (8 passenger) which serves as a taxi cab on both land and water in this southeastern part. Arrived at Juneau at 10:30. Made a rush visit of the city, but saw it. Visited the memorial church and met the native Tlingit



Indian pastor, Walter A. Soboleff, a graduate of Dubuque College and Seminary. The church is nearing self-support with 230 members. Ninety in the Sunday School. Like all cities in this region of Alaska, the town is built on a narrow strip of land with mountains rising sharply on one side, and the tides of the Pacific washing in on the other. Visited the Church of the Northern Light. Also Auk Lake Church which is new and has a beautiful picture window over-looking Auk Lake and the Mendenhall Glacier. Were able to visit the glacier and get some close pictures. Leave now on a PNA DC 4 and have clear weather for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, then more clouds.

Larry is wishing that bad weather would prevent us from stopping at Annette so that we would go right on to Seattle and home. But the pilot brings it down at Annette and again, we board a little Gruman Goose to fly a short distance over the rocky and hilly islands to the small fishing town of Ketchikan. Met by the missionary Paul Moser and stay at the Ingersoll Hotel overnight. Had dinner with the Mosers. Very heavy rain here and lots of wind.

Thursday, October 30 - The rain continues as we do a little shopping. Saw the Presbyterian Church and the town. Three fourths of the members are native Indians of all three tribes. Enjoyed white Alaska king salmon for lunch at only \$1.60. White salmon is better, but won't sell in the states because the public thinks of salmon in terms of red, that is if it is canned. Kings are big and are all frozen and sent to the states, or filleted. Kings avoid traps and are caught by trolling. They measure 20 to 60 inches.

The church here has 130 members, and 150 in Sunday School. It receives 50% Board support. Four fifths of the present building is erected on pilings. Property has been purchased for a new location. Mrs. May Swanson is a lend-lease helper for the Board of Christian Education, spending two months at Ketchikan. She served the Alaskan churches.

The weather has turned bad suddenly with very strong winds. Our plane is delayed. The PNA plane is held up at Juneau so we still may make connections at Annette. We should have left here at 1:45 but could not get away until 4 p.m. Flew in the cockpit seat beside the pilot. Made connections with the big PNA plane and head for Seattle. Find only Bill Wiseman and Bruce Evans on the plane. They said that nine other men of our team were "socked in" at Sitka and so, would be a day late in returning home. Learned also that last week when the fellows were socked in at Ketchikan and Annette overnight, Gilmour's luggage missed him and went on to Fairbanks. He didn't get it back until the following Thursday. Bruce Evans told stories all the way, saying that Jay Bush preached in Wrangell all week and never saw the sun until he got to Anchorage. Bruce has spoke 23 times during his week at Sitka.

The pilot announced that we were flying at 16,000 feet against a headwind of 110 miles per hour. This would require an extra hour of flying time getting to Seattle. In other words, we were taking three steps forward and one backwards, something like Hillcrest Church with its military constituency coming and going. The last hour and a half were quite rough. After having had a good dinner on the flight, we didn't want to lose it so we all chewed gum mighty hard! Didn't arrive at Seattle until 8:45 p.m. Checked in at the Stewart Hotel. Larry and I went for a brisk walk and a hot chocolate. The handle of my larger suitcase had broken off during the last flight, so we bought some clothesline in a drugstore and made a rope handle. Temperature warm and we felt good to be "home" once again, although we each had a lot of flying to do the next day.

Friday, October 31 - Up at 6:45, breakfasted, and picked up by the airport bus at 8 a.m. Warm and rainy. Checked our baggage and I was still overweight - total 67 lbs., costing me \$19.60. Bid farewell to Larry Fisher, a wonderful fellow and traveling companion during our entire preaching mission.

Boarded a Northwest Airlines DC 7 for Chicago. It is a beautiful ship and very few passengers are aboard so I have lots of room and windows for getting pictures. Leave cloudy Seattle at 9:30 but soon the weather cleared. The captain announced that we would cruise at 19,000 feet, flying time 5 hrs. 40 mins., and the route would take us over Spokane, Great Falls, Bismarck and Rochester. I worked on sermon notes for Sunday. Have lots of National Missions work to tell about. The weather clears beautifully as we pass the Cascade Range and enter the Rocky Mountain area. Took lots of pictures. The route is similar to the one we used going west and I have been fortunate to have good clear weather both ways. Although flying on a coach flight, I had ordered a hot lunch when I had checked in. We had juice, roast beef, lima beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, tossed salad, rolls, milk, and ice cream for dessert. Took a nap. Re-set my watch from 2 o'clock Pacific time to 4 p.m. Central Standard Time. Got all of my final films boxed, taped, and ready to drop in the mail at Chicago. Headwinds make us



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20 minutes late. Arrive at 5:25 as the city lights are being turned on. Green, white, and red street signs make Chicago look like Christmas. The streets are loaded with auto lights. Dark Lake Michigan is off to the left. Beautiful red glow of evening is now on the west horizon. We circled once due to a faulty landing gear warning light, which was burned out, the captain announced.

Had time at the Chicago Airport for a haircut and to watch the operation of that very busy airport from the top deck of the terminal. Met one of our members, Ed Ratusnik, who returned to Cleveland with me. Since it was Halloween night, we rode in with the goblins in the light of a beautiful harvest moon.

Surprised at the Cleveland Airport to be greeted not only by my family, but about 30 members of our congregation also.

One returns from such a trip as this with greater admiration for the missionaries serving in isolated and adverse locations, with appreciation for the opportunity of having served with some of these fine dedicated people and their congregations, and with commendation to our Board of National Missions for its imaginative planning and strategy in bringing the Christian Gospel to the people of Alaska by land, in the air, and on the sea.

*from*  
Bay Presbyterian Church  
~~Board~~ Columbia & Lake Roads  
Bay Village, Ohio